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Pulse
of Wabash

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Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming fall sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution Wednesdays

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. Distribution is while supplies last. All are welcome, regardless of home county or reason for need. No IDs, proof of address or income will be required. If you are walking up or coming via a vehicle too small to carry a load of food, please plan to arrive an hour after the tailgate starts. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

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Dozens quarantined as local schools report COVID-19 in students, staff

MHS, MES, Sharp Creek, Metro North, WHS, NHS report cases to ISDH

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Several local schools have reported new positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), with dozens

quarantined.

School figures

The ISDH's latest reported school results were as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16 and were updated Monday, Oct. 19. The ISDH's school dashboard is updated weekly at midnight Mondays.

Statewide there were 622 schools with no reported cases, 1,168 schools with one or more cases and 576 schools that have not reported.

During the latest update, in Wabash County:

■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High Schools (MHS) reported fewer than five each new student positive cases and new staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) previously reported fewer than five total student positive cases.

■ Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five new student positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five new staff positive cases.

■ Wabash High School

(WHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported fewer than five each new student positive cases and new staff positive cases.

"As per the MSD of Wabash County Re-entry Plan 2020-2021 which includes guidance from the ISDH, possible close contacts were notified to be quarantined. Also, areas affected were thoroughly disinfected," said Mike Keafaber, MSD superintendent,

on Monday.

On the Manchester Community Schools' (MCS) own dashboard the information is updated once contact tracing is complete and all close contacts have been notified.

"In the most recent COVID quarantine at MCS, there were more close contacts than in the past cases," said Teresa L. Gremaux, MCS superintendent, on Monday.

Gremaux said MCS defines close contact is when

See SCHOOLS, page A9

Clerk: Absentee ballot requests due by Thursday



Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The Wabash County Clerk's Office had 2,288 in-person voters at their office by 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

As of 4 p.m. Friday, 2,288 in-person voters; 1,972 absentee ballots requested, 1,417 returned

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

If you're planning on voting absentee in the General Election this year, 11:59 p.m. Thursday is the final deadline to deliver your signed request to the Wabash County Clerk's Office.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 13, Lori Draper, clerk, said they had mailed 1,890 absentee ballots and 1,148 of those had been returned, not counting that day's absentee numbers.

On Monday, Oct. 19, Draper said as of 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, they had 1,417 absentee ballots returned and 1,972 absentee ballots requested.

Draper said during the first four days of early voting, their office had seen 1,146 voters cast their ballots by 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. Draper said they had 2,288 in-person voters at their office by 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

Lori Draper, clerk, said voters are not to use the dropbox outside the building, but that they were "watching it and getting any ballots immediately."

By comparison, in the 2016 November presidential election Draper said they had a total of 384 absentee ballots.

"We've had steady voting today and have a lot of mail we are processing," said Draper, on Monday, Oct. 19.

Draper said absentee voters may bring their ballot to the clerk's office by noon on Election Day.

Draper said voters who wish to vote absentee may visit indianavoters.com and complete an absentee application or they can call the clerk's office at 260-563-0661, ext. 1238 and request the form.

Additionally, Draper said voters are not to use the

See BALLOTS, page A9



A very wet spring of 2019 which delayed planting and, subsequently, harvesting

By AARON KENNEDY
Frankfort Times Editor

After facing adverse conditions and unexpected challenges through the last few years, local farmers are glad to be in the fields harvesting crops from what has been something closer to a normal season. They are especially relieved to have some normalcy in the fields after what was a very wet spring of 2019 which delayed planting and, subsequently, harvesting.

"Early on, everything was really dry and good," said Adam Shanks, a local farmer and Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator at

Purdue Extension-Clinton County. "We got early beans harvested in a timely manner. The rest of the beans, the normal season beans, aren't quite ready, so everybody switched over to maybe trying to shell some corn."

"The last week was really wet, cloudy, and the temps weren't good," he explained on Oct. 6. "Beans need a sunny day like today to dry. Last week was kind of a delay in soybean harvest, but guys got some corn shelled and in the bin drying. This week, it looks like we are going to kick the door open and have a good week to get beans cut."

"Weather-wise, this has

been a more normal season," Shanks said. "Planting got done timely. We got fertilizer put on timely. This fall, things are happening in a timely fashion. Last year, it was really delayed. Everything came off late and was generally high moisture. This year, I believe the corn has matured now and is ready to dry down, and the beans are drying down."

"Economy-wise, here lately the markets have rebounded quite nicely," he continued. "Early on, there was a lot of skepticism and basically a lot of animosity with prices the way they were, but those have come around to be a little bit better now."



AARON KENNEDY / akeneddy@ftimes.com

Local farmers have begun to get into their fields to harvest this season's crops. Last year, many had to wait for a late harvest after experiencing a very wet spring.

I think, economy-wise, it is steady right now. I wouldn't say it is great, but it is steadier than it was early on this year with the markets."

Shanks also says that yields have been good — not re-

cord-breaking by any means, but still good.

"Yields have been OK," he said. "We got a lot of heat in August and not a lot of rain."

See HARVEST, page A9

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Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, left, holds his Guardian Award, which was presented to him by Barbara Quandt, NFIB State Director in Indiana, right.

Zay earns NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award

State senator is a third-generation small business owner

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana Office of National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the state’s leading small business advocacy organization, announced Thursday that Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, earned its Guardian of Small Business award, according to a press release. Zay was presented the award by NFIB State Director in Indiana, Barbara Quandt. Zay is a third-generation small business owner. Zay Leasing & Rentals serves

the small-town community of Huntington, population 17,000. Sen. Zay believes in customer service and supporting his local community. Quandt said like thousands of other Indiana small business communities, Zay has felt the pinch of the coronavirus crisis. Quandt said thanks to a PPP loan, Zay was able to keep his employees and their families on the payroll. Quandt said while Zay took a hit from rental car sales during spring break and the summer tourist season, he’s confident that if the legislature continues to support small business issues, Indiana’s economy will rebound. Quandt said that rings true with NFIB’s recent Small Business Optimism Eco-

nomie Trends report, which rose nearly 4 points to a historically high reading. The Guardian of Small Business award is the most prestigious honor that NFIB, or the National Federation of Independent Business, bestows on legislators in recognition of their efforts to support small businesses. The NFIB Indiana Leadership Council, an advisory board comprised of NFIB members, voted to present the award to the legislator for his outstanding leadership on small business issues. Zay, who lives in Huntington, represents Senate District 17, which includes Huntington, North Manchester, Columbia City and Wabash and surrounding areas.

LOCAL BRIEFS

WPD participating in Operation Belt Up

The Wabash Police Department (WPD) is participating in Operation Belt Up through Nov. 5, according to Capt. Matt Benson, WPD public information officer. Indiana law requires everyone in the vehicle to wear a seat belt. Children under eight years of age are required to be in a federally-approved child or booster seat. Benson said motorists are 12 times more likely to be killed if they are unrestrained.

The overtime patrols are paid for the National Highway Administration funds, administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

– Staff report

Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to host tenderloin dinner

STAFF Report

The Wabash Veterans of War (VFW) Post No. 286 has planned a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford. The cost will be \$9 per person.

The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, potato salad and coleslaw. Carryout will be available. This event will be open to the public. For more information, call 260-563-2436.

– Staff report

VFW plans trunk-or-treat event

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Wabash Post No. 286 has planned a trunk-or-treat event from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Kerrie Hanigan, VFW Wabash Post No. 286 auxiliary president. The event is set to take place in the parking lot of the VFW building. For more information, call 260-563-2463.


– Staff report

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5-Day Weather Summary



Wednesday

Showers Likely


65 / 52



Thursday

Partly Cloudy


79 / 61



Friday

Few Showers


71 / 40



Saturday

Mostly Cloudy

52 / 39



Sunday


Mostly Cloudy

56 / 45

Sun and Moon


Today's sunset 6:58 p.m.

Tomorrow's sunrise 8:07 a.m.




First

10/23




Full

10/31



Last

11/8



New

11/15

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with an 80% chance of showers, high temperature of 65°, humidity of 64%. Southwest wind 3 to 10 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of showers, overnight low of 52°. East wind 5 mph.

Communities of Wabash County launch Imagine One 85

Collaborative effort to establish the community’s vision and comprehensive plan

STAFF REPORT

A team of elected and appointed officials, civic leaders and organizations is launching an innovative, comprehensive planning process for the five incorporated communities of Wabash County, according to Patty Grant, executive director of the Community Foundation of Wabash County, and Keith Gillenwater, president and CEO of Grow Wabash County. The plan, called Imagine One 85, is prompted by Wabash County’s steady and alarming decline in population that threatens school funding, industry and job growth, economic development and competitive wages, the availability of retail and professional services, and home values. Together, leaders and citizens from all sectors of the county will develop a bold, comprehensive plan for the growth and prosperity of the entire county and the incorporated communities of La Fontaine, Lagro, North Manchester, Roann and Wabash.

- 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13
- 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16
- In-person events include:
 - 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9 at Roann Community Center, 105 N. Chippewa St., Roann
 - 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, Lagro Town Hall, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro
 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, La Fontaine Community Building, 105 W Branson St., La Fontaine
 - 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, Honeywell Center, Legacy Center, 275 W. Market St.
 - 6:30, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Manchester Community Schools Admin Building, 404 W 9th St., North Manchester

To ensure the safety of participants and event volunteers, all events will adhere to strict safety protocols outlined by the Indiana Department of Health. The workshops will begin with a brief presentation from the planning team on the county’s most important conditions and trends. Attendees will be asked to share their thoughts and ideas about the future of their community and Wabash County overall. This input will be used as foundation blocks for the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will be a long-term guide for decision making within Wabash County. The plan will address topics such as land use, housing, financial conditions and planning, economic development, public health, transportation and others. While comprehensive planning is a common practice

for individual cities, the collaborative approach designed for Imagine One 85 is unique in the State of Indiana. The process to create the plan will last just over a year and will include numerous opportunities for community members to get involved and share their ideas and input through in-person and virtual engagement sessions. Imagine One 85 is led by a 19-member Steering Committee made up of elected and appointed officials from each of the county’s communities and county government. Also, an Outreach Team – consisting of more than 100 community members – will assist the steering committee in spreading the word about the process and key community engagement opportunities. A multi-disciplinary consultant team led by Planning NEXT of Columbus, Ohio, is facilitating the process in close coordination with leadership from the Community Foundation of Wabash County and Grow Wabash County. Imagine One 85 is led by the CFWC and GWC and a team of elected and appointed officials representing Wabash County, the city of Wabash, and the towns of LaFontaine, Lagro, North Manchester and Roann. The process is funded by the Community Foundation, a grant from Lilly Endowment, Grow Wabash County, Manchester University, all of the county’s incorporated communities and private citizens. For more information, visit www.ImagineOne85.org. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com.

ISP partners with DEA for 19th Drug Take Back Day

Needles, new or used, will not be accepted for disposal

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana State Police (ISP) will once again partner with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for their 19th nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back initiative from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, according to a press release. The Take Back initiative seeks to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft through proper disposal of prescription drugs. Unwanted medications

may be dropped off at any ISP Post, except the Toll Road Post. In addition to the ISP Peru Post, 1451 N. Eel River Cemetery Road, Peru, collection sites will be set up nationwide. All sites will accept expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs which will be properly disposed of without threat to the environment. This program is for liquid and pill medications. Vaping pens without batteries and vaping cartridges will also be taken. Needles, new or used, will not be accepted for disposal. This service is free and anonymous with no questions asked. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public

health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. Also, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash pose both potential safety and health hazards.

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308 River Cove Lane - North Manchester, IN

2,207^{sq} ft Home 3 Bed; 2 Bath Home on Corner Lot

Owner: Carl J Strike & Esther J Strike Joint Revocable Trust

Open Houses:

Oct 3rd • 10 a.m. - Noon

Oct 15th • 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

HLS# JRR-12548

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Obituaries

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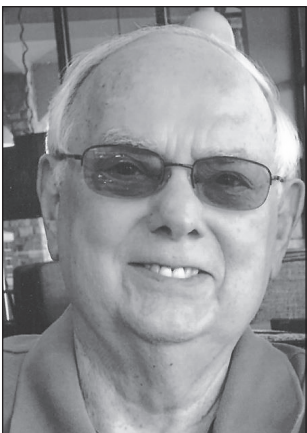
Daniel Irvin ‘Dan’ Knee

Aug. 10, 1942 – Oct. 18, 2020

Daniel Irvin “Dan” Knee, 78, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, died at 8:14 pm, Sunday, October 18, 2020 at his home. He was born August 10, 1942 in Urbana, Indiana, to Harold and Mildred (Mattern) Knee.

Dan was a 1960 graduate of Urbana High School, graduated Cum Laude from Western Michigan University in 1969, and received his Master’s degree from St. Francis University in Fort Wayne. He served in the US Navy as an electronics technician on the USS Wallace L. Lind destroyer from 1961-1965. Dan married Lynn Jo Carroll in North Manchester, Indiana on July 22, 1967. He worked for I&M Power for his entire professional career as an engineering supervisor. Dan was a member of the Lifewater Community Church in Fort Wayne. He loved working in his workshop, where he built two driftboats, and donated many hours at church, building a playground, and helping with building repairs.

He is survived by his wife, Lynn Jo Knee of Fort Wayne, daughter, Erin (Michael) Dougherty of Novi, Michgian, daughter-in-law, Jennifer (Troy Edwards) McWilliams of Ludington, Michigan, four grandchildren, Jacob Dougherty of Columbus, Ohio, Joseph Dougherty of Novi, Carter Knee and Adam Knee, both of Ludington.



He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Mark Knee, two brothers, Norman Knee and Dave Knee, and his brother-in-law, Jack Krom.

Funeral services will be 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 25, 2020, at the Ijamsville United Methodist Church, Ijamsville, Indiana, with Pastor Kent Harting, Rev. Doug Beutler, and Rev. Stephen Lane officiating. Burial will be in Laketon Cemetery, Ijamsville. Friends may call 1-2 pm Sunday, at the church. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hengtgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorials are Ijamsville United Methodist Church, 309 S. Maple Street, North Manchester, IN 46962 or Lifewater Community Church, 5600 Westbreeze Trail, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804.

The memorial guest book for Dan may be signed at www.grandstaff-hengtgen.com.

Harold L. Fawley

March 11, 1930 – Oct. 14, 2020

Harold L. Fawley, 90, North Manchester passed away October 14, 2020 at his residence. Harold was born March 11, 1930 in Warsaw, Indiana to Clifford and Artie (Good) Fawley.

Harold graduated from Laketon High School in 1949. The next year, he married Joan Ringenberg on November 17, 1950. The two were wed for fifty-two years before her passing on January 6, 2003. When Joan passed away, he lost a piece of himself. Harold enjoyed crafting, painting on saw blades, and woodworking in the wood shop he built. He had a rare blood type that once saved a life at Wabash Hospital. He served in the United States Army as a military police officer.

The memory of Harold Fawley will be remembered by his son, Jay R. Fawley, North Manchester; daughter-in-law, Pam Fawley,



North Manchester; three grandchildren, Ross Fawley, North Manchester, Ryan Fawley, Rochester, Indiana, and Ian Fawley, Ferndale, Washington. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, one son, Jon T. Fawley, passed away on August 7, 2018, and one daughter-in-law, Lisa Fawley.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Oaklawn Cemetery, 600 Beckley Street, North Manchester with Pastor Ken Sistrunk officiating.

For those who wish to honor the memory of Harold L. Fawley, memorial contributions may be made to The American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington VA 22202 or Wabash County Cancer Society, P.O. Box 144, North Manchester IN 46962.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Ken D. Burton

Jan. 30, 1953 – Oct. 17, 2020

Ken D. Burton, 67, North Manchester, died October 17, 2020. Born in Wabash, on January 30, 1953, he was born to Paul and Maxine (Emerick) Burton.

Ken D. Burton is survived by wife, Connie Burton; daughter, Lydia (Tristan) Gawthrop; brother, Alan (Rebecca) Burton; and grandchildren, Tallulah and Gatsby Gawthrop.

Calling Wednesday, October 21, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will begin at the conclusion of calling. Burial will be at Graceland Cemetery, South Graceland Ave., Claypool, Indiana.

The family has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

Virginia K. Livengood

Jan. 26, 1937 – Oct. 18, 2020

Virginia K. Livengood, 83, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 4:25 am, Sunday, October 18, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. She was born January 26, 1937, in Garrett, Indiana, to Ora and Miriam (Bryant) Souder.

Virginia was a 1955 graduate of Garrett High School, and received her BS and Masters degrees, from Ball State University. She married John E. Livengood in Garrett, on August 23, 1958; he died April 4, 2019. Virginia was a first grade teacher at Southwood Elementary School, retiring after 26 years, and also taught kindergarten at Somerset Elementary School. She was a member of the Treaty Church of Christ, and was involved with the J.A.M. children’s program, and Bible Study Fellowship. She was also a member of the Indiana State Retired Teachers Association. Virginia enjoyed sewing, being outdoors putting around, Southwood sports, and especially her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Lynn Wells and Jody Livengood, both of Wabash, two grandchildren, Daniel (Sarah) Wells of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Abby (Chaz) Creiglow of Summerville, South Carolina, two great-grandchildren, Amelia Wells of Charlotte, and Everly Creiglow of Summerville, and



her brother, Allen Souder of Fort Recovery, Ohio. She was also preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Charles Souder and Raymond Souder, and her sister, Eleanor Siedel.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 24, 2020, at Treaty Church of Christ, 6780 S 50 E, Wabash, with Ryan Weaver officiating. Burial and graveside service will be 1:00 p.m. Sunday at the Butler Cemetery, in Butler, Indiana. Friends may call 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Saturday at the church. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hengtgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorials are International Disaster Emergency Service (I.D.E.S.) or Treaty Church of Christ.

The memorial guest book for Virginia may be signed at www.grandstaff-hengtgen.com.

Max L. Heflin

June 18, 1932 – Oct. 17, 2020

Max L. Heflin, 88, of rural Urbana, Indiana, died at 3:44 pm, Saturday, October 17, 2020 at his home. He was born June 18, 1932 in Perkinsville, Indiana, to Lavon Joseph “Pat” and Louinda Ellen (Shultz) Heflin.

Max was a 1950 graduate of Windfall High School and attended the Purdue University Short Course. He served in the US Air Force from 1951-55. Max married Peggy Joan Morris in Tipton, Indiana on June 29, 1952. He was a longtime dairy farmer, and also retired from the US Department of Agriculture in 2004. Max was a member of the Saw Dust Gang, the American Legion and the V.F.W., and was a Master Gardener. He enjoyed woodworking, gardening, mowing, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Joan Heflin of Urbana,



na, two children, Kirk Von (Carlotta Bach) Heflin of Vienna, Austria, and Karen (Lee) Smith of Wabash, Indiana, three grandchildren, Kayla (Casey) Taylor and Lyman “Len” (Megan) Smith, both of Wabash, and Luna Heflin of Vienna, Austria, three great-grandchildren, Kyle Lee Smith, Casey Lynn Taylor, Jr, and Lyman Rhett Smith, all of Wabash, and his sister, Sue Holmes of Urbana. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother James Heflin.

Inurnment will be at the Marion National Cemetery, at a later date. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hengtgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is Animal Shelter of Wabash County.

The memorial guest book for Max may be signed at www.grandstaff-hengtgen.com.

Brenda J. Smith

Nov. 3, 1946 – Oct. 17, 2020

Brenda J. Smith, 73, of Lagro, Indiana, died at 4:40 am, Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was born November 3, 1946 in McRoberts, Kentucky, to Guy F. and Oma (Coots) Hollon.

Brenda married JD Smith in Clintwood, Virginia on December 18, 1976; he died February 6, 2010. She was a homemaker. She enjoyed playing cards, playing Yahtzee, and spending time with her family. Brenda lived in Lagro the past 5 years, coming from Tazewell, Tennessee.

She is survived by three children, Sue Combs of Flor-



ida, Angie Sadler and Carl “Ray” (Cynthia) Smith, both of Lagro, 16 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her parents, son, Robert Dean Smith, two daughters, Janie Marie Keck and Kathy Lynn Niverson, and her sister, Barbara Varney.

Friends may call 5-7 pm Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hengtgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave. Wabash. Funeral services will be at Coffey Mortuary, 937 Broad Street, Tazewell, Tennessee.

The memorial guest book for Brenda may be signed at www.grandstaff-hengtgen.com.

Connie J. Brandenburg

Nov. 20, 1936 – Oct. 17, 2020

Connie J. Brandenburg, 83, formerly of North Manchester, Indiana, died at 4:00 am, Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Bickford Cottage in Wabash. She was born November 20, 1936 in Wabash County, to Arden and Lucille (Herendeen) Hileman.

Connie was a 1954 Laketon High School graduate. She married Billy E. Brandenburg at the Manchester First Brethren Church on September 11, 1955; he died December 11, 2019. Connie worked at Timbercrest Senior Living Community 31 years, as an operator for General Telephone Company, and also worked for Dr. George and Dr. Steve Seward. She was a member of the Manchester First Brethren Church and a former member of the Chester Chalmers Home Economics Club. Connie enjoyed vegetable gardening, raising roses, antiques, coin collecting, and watching slow pitch softball and basketball.

She is survived by her three children, Tammy Brandenburg of North Manchester, Cris Brandenburg of Lafayette, Indiana, and Patrick (Haley) Brandenburg of North Manchester, four grandchildren, Eli Brandenburg of Lafayette, Allie (Jered) Price of Idaville, Indiana, Rachel Brandenburg



and Leah Brandenburg, both of Indianapolis, Indiana, and her sister, Patty (Jim) Weitzel of Moline, Illinois. She was also preceded in death by her parents, 4 sisters, Tess Luckinbill, Geneva Powers, Donnie Spradling, and Bonnie Helvey and her brother, Buddy Hileman.

Funeral services will be 10:30 am Friday, October 23, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hengtgen Bender Chapel, 207 W. Main St., North Manchester, with Herbert Hughes officiating. Burial will be in Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester. Friends may call 3-7 pm Thursday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Bickford Cottage.

The memorial guest book for Connie may be signed at www.grandstaff-hengtgen.com.

Kayden W. Sendelbach

Funeral Services for Kayden W. Sendelbach, 10, of Wabash, were 10:00 am, Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hengtgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Pastor J.P. Freeman, Pastor Sebrina Cline, and Pastor Scott Johnston officiated. Susan Nalanding-

ham was the musician and Kolby Rosemeyer gave a prayer. Burial was in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Pallbearers were Kolby Rosemeyer, Blade Rosemeyer, Kyle Rosemeyer, Matthew Martin, Daniel Martin, and Nicholas Sendelbach.

Eugene L. Solti

Nov. 18, 1927 – Oct. 16, 2020

Eugene L. Solti, 92, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 6:40 pm, on Friday, October 16, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. He was born November 18, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, to Alex Solti and Mary (Kavalesik) Westkowski.

Eugene was a graduate of South Shore High School in Chicago. He was in the US Navy serving in the Merchant Marines and the US Army during WWII. He married Mildred F. Robinson in Las Vegas, Nevada in August of 1980; she died January 31, 2007. Eugene was a free lance commercial artist from 1946-1980. He enjoyed fishing, putting around, going to garage sales and flea markets, and traveling.

He is survived by two daughters, Diane (Dennis) Wood of Brookfield, Illi-



nois, and Laura Hopkins of Zion, Illinois, 8 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, 1 great great granddaughter, and his step brother, Arthur Westkowski of Crown Pointe, Indiana. He was also preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be 10:30 am Thursday, October 22, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hengtgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Robb Rensberger officiating. Entombment will be in the Chapel of Remembrance Mausoleum at Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 9:00-10:30 am Thursday at the funeral home.

The memorial guest book for Eugene may be signed at www.grandstaff-hengtgen.com.

Charles Wilbert Cochran

Charles Wilbert Cochran, 93, of LaFontaine, passed away at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 16, 2020 at Rolling Meadows.

Wilbert married Helen C. Reed on March 9, 1947; she passed away on June 10, 2018.

Wilbert is survived by his son, Dennis (Sherol) Cochran, LaFontaine; four grandchildren and five

great-grandchildren.

A graveside service were held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery.

Services have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 S. Main Street, LaFontaine, Indiana 46940.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

A new challenge for tough times

“Dude, I want you to punch Donald Trump in the face.”

During Amy Coney Barrett’s hearing, New Jersey Democratic Sen.

Kathryn Lopez



Cory Booker quoted a man who approached him at a town hall. “Dude, that’s a felony,” is how Booker described his response. Good for him, fighting against our crazed political culture of anger, contempt and violence. I don’t agree with Cory Booker on a lot of things, but I agree, as he went on to say, that we need “a revival of civic grace.” He said: “Somewhere along the line, there’s going to be a moment. It’s coming. I think it’s long past that there has to be acts of heroism when it comes to extending grace.”

Now, that was his pitch to Republicans to hold off on a vote on Amy Coney Barrett. Largely because I think Barrett may be the best thing that has happened to American politics in a long time, I disagree. Washington needs her. America needs her.

Booker’s comments were an unexpected turn in the hearings, which were dehumanizing, as they tend to be.

Last year, Arthur Brooks diagnosed what’s ailing American politics in his book “Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from

the Culture of Contempt.” “America is addicted to political contempt,” Brooks wrote. “While most of us hate what it is doing to our country and worry about how contempt coarsens our culture over the long term, many of us ... actively indulge their habit by participating in the cycle of contempt in the way they treat others, especially on social media. We wish our national debates were nutritious and substantive, but we have an insatiable craving for insults to the other side. As much as we know we should ignore the nasty columnist, turn off the TV loudmouth, and stop checking our Twitter feeds, we indulge our guilty urge to listen as our biases are confirmed that the other guys are not just wrong, but stupid and evil.”

Sound familiar? “Contempt,” Brooks writes, “is impractical and bad for a country dependent on people working together in politics, communities and the economy. Unless we hope to become a one-party state, we cannot afford contempt for our fellow Americans who simply disagree with us.”

The problem has only gotten worse. The confirmation hearings abundantly showed this. Did you notice the explosion about the phrase “sexual preference”? Barrett didn’t mean to make any political statement by her choice of words. But the rules of what is tolerated by polite society were changed by the Democrats on that committee during

the hearing, leading Merriam-Webster to label the phrase as offensive.

If you’re an American who fears Barrett on the court, consider there is another point of view, as I acknowledge yours. I’d like us to have old-fashioned debates about ideas. I want to see America survive with freedom of religion and speech and all the rest. How about you? I suspect there are more of us than not. We just aren’t often the bullhorn types.

Broaden what Sen. Booker was talking about beyond the Senate. “This is a point,” he said, “when millions of Americans are suffering and hurting and losing the very idea of what it means to be an American in terms of the dream and the promise of this country. This is the moment that this nation needs ... actions of grace.”

Take that as a challenge. We can work with people we disagree with, even on fundamentals, for a greater good. Listen. Be an agent of grace. It sanctifies. It heals. It’s a way forward. And people of prayer, let’s pray that the impossible will be possible. Because it sure feels impossible just about now! But, as they say, with grace all things are possible.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Frey: Charismatic bishop with a big voice and a big family

Episcopal bishops in the 1980s were already used to urgent calls from journalists seeking comments on issues ranging from gay priests to gun control, from female bishops to immigration

Terry Mattingly



laws, from gender-free liturgies to abortion rights. But the pace quickened for Bishop William C. Frey in 1985 when he was one of four candidates to become presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. A former radio professional, Frey was known for his bass voice and quick one-liners. His Lutheran counterpart in Colorado once told him: “You look like a movie star, sound like God and wear cowboy boots.”

Other Denver religious leaders sometimes asked, with some envy, why Episcopalians got so much ink.

“I can’t understand why some people want the kind of media attention we get,” he told me during one media storm. “That’s like coveting another man’s root canal.”

A Texas native, Frey died in San Antonio on Oct. 11 after years out of the spotlight. In addition to his Colorado tenure, his ministry included missionary work in Central America during the “death squads” era and leading an alternative Episcopal seminary in a struggling Pennsylvania steel town.

While critics called him the “token evangelical” in the presiding bishop race, Frey was a complex figure during his time in Colorado, where I covered him for the now-closed Rocky Mountain News. He called himself a

“radical moderate,” while also attacking “theology by opinion poll.”

“We need a church that knows its own identity and proclaims it fearlessly. No more stealth religion!” he said in his 1990 farewell sermon. “We need a church that knows how to answer the question ‘What think ye of Christ?’ without forming a committee to weigh all possible options. We need a church that doesn’t cross its fingers when it says the creed.”

Nevertheless, a conservative priest called him a “Marxist-inspired heretic” for backing the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the ordination of women.

The bishop opposed capital punishment and abortion, and welcomed stricter gun-control laws. He backed expanded work with the homeless and immigrants. At the time, gay-rights activists called him a “charismatic fundamentalist” because he opposed the ordination of sexually active gays and lesbians and preached that sex outside of marriage was sin.

Also, before the presiding bishop election, Frey fielded questions – and heard old whispers – about the informal charismatic Christian community he led with his wife, Barbara (who died in 2014). At its peak, 21 people lived in the rambling Victorian home in urban Denver. In all, 65 different people lived there over the years, ranging from Emmy winner Ann B. Davis of “The Brady Bunch” to an undocumented family from Mexico. The record breakfast crowd was 76.

“Most of the innuendos were the same old stuff – that Bill Frey was a hippie, living some kind of alternative lifestyle. Some people always want to ask us a bunch of

questions about who was sleeping in what room,” the late Father Bert Womack once told me. “I’m sure that, for each of us, Bishop Frey was both bishop and shepherd. But he was also just plain Bill. He had to stand in line to get into the bathroom along with everybody else.”

“The bishop’s house” had its roots in missionary life in Guatemala, where the Freys welcomed so many visitors that their five children sometimes slept in tents. The family was forced to flee in 1971, amid rumors the bishop was on an assassination list because of his activism opposing human-rights abuses by the government.

Before landing in Colorado in 1973, the bishop was exposed to charismatic life in Houston and Arkansas, embracing healing ministries, the ecstatic experience of speaking in tongues and other spiritual gifts.

Living in community was never about displays of authority, he explained while preparing to move from Colorado to Ambridge, Pennsylvania. It was about an extended family.

“I guess murder was never committed under this roof. ... That’s about the only sin or weakness we haven’t wrestled with,” Frey said. “But God has kept giving us forgiveness and grace and love.”

“I decided, after one or two years, that every single person who ever lived here had been created by God specifically to reveal to me one of my weaknesses,” he said. “It was all a part of the Lord’s way of making us whole.”

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

In debate countdown, Trump holds rally, Biden does prep

By ZEKE MILLER, WILL WEISSERT and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump shunned formal debate practice Tuesday and was heading instead for another of his big rallies, two days ahead of the final presidential debate that may be his last, best chance to alter the trajectory of the 2020 campaign. Democrat Joe Biden took the opposite approach, holing up for debate prep.

In the buildup to Thursday’s faceoff in Nashville, Trump is trailing in polls in most battleground states as he

works to pull off a repeat of his come-from-behind victory of 2016. Also trailing in fundraising for campaign ads, Trump is increasingly relying on his signature campaign rallies to deliver a closing message to voters and maximize turnout among his GOP base.

Three weeks of wrangling over the debate format and structure appeared to have subsided Tuesday after the Commission on Presidential Debates unveiled a rules change meant to reduce the chaotic interruptions that plagued the first Trump-Biden encounter last month.

This time, Trump and Biden will each have his

microphone cut off while his rival delivers an opening two-minute answer to each of the six debate topics, the commission announced. The mute button won’t figure in the open discussion portion of the debate.

Trump’s team is calling for a more in-depth focus on foreign policy in the debate, believing it to be a strong suit for the incumbent, but there is not expected to be any shift away from the announced topics, which include a segment devoted to national security.

Trump was holding a rally Tuesday evening in Erie, Pennsylvania, a part of the state instrumental in his vic-

tory four years ago, when he was the first GOP candidate since Ronald Reagan to carry the county.

Erie County, which includes the aging industrial city in the state’s northwest corner, went for President Barack Obama by five points in 2012 but broke for Trump by two in 2016. That swing, fueled by Trump’s success with white, working class, non-college-educated voters, was replicated in small cities and towns and rural areas and helped him overcome Hillary Clinton’s victories in the state’s big cities.

But Trump will likely need to run up the score by more this time around as

his prospects have slipped since 2016 in vote-rich suburban Philadelphia, where he underperformed by past Republican measures. This raises the stakes for his campaign’s more aggressive outreach to new rural and small-town voters across the industrial north.

His aides worry that his opponent is uniquely situated to prevent that, as Biden not only hails from Scranton, but has built his political persona as a representative of the middle and working class.

Vice President Mike Pence, meanwhile, was holding tele-rallies meant to boost vulnerable Republican Senate and House candidates,

and he was leading a meeting of the White House coronavirus task force.

Trump was to have been joined in Erie by first lady Melania Trump, in what was to be her first public appearance since she and the president were sickened with COVID-19, but her chief of staff, Stephanie Grisham, said Tuesday that Mrs. Trump has a lingering cough and would not accompany the president.

Before leaving the White House, Trump was taping an interview with CBS’ “60 Minutes” and a town hall with local news conglomerate Sinclair that will air on Wednesday.

State adds 48 virus deaths as hospitalizations also grow

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — State health officials on Tuesday added 48 coronavirus-related deaths to Indiana’s toll, which has been growing faster over the past month along with new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations.

Indiana’s numbers of deaths has grown to 4,008, including confirmed and presumed coronavirus infections, since the state’s first death was reported in mid-March, according to the state health department. That total is an increase of 502 deaths from what the state agency reported a month ago, with the updated total of 31 coronavirus deaths on Friday making it the most in a single day since May.

Nursing homes across Indiana are also continuing to feel the toll of COVID-19. The state’s long-term care facilities dashboard reports 2,113 residents have died as of Oct.

7, representing more than 57 percent of all coronavirus deaths in the state.

The Boone County Health Department reported the latest outbreak, announcing Tuesday morning that four residents have died and 37 other residents and employees have tested positive for COVID-19 at Signature Healthcare at Parkwood in Lebanon, 30 miles northwest of Indianapolis.

A statement released by the health department said a “strike team” from the Indiana Department of Health has been notified and is currently working with Parkwood to provide “support, testing, and mitigation efforts.”

“We are beginning to see record-breaking COVID-19 numbers within Boone County and across the state,” county health officials said in a statement. “As the weather

becomes colder, we are anticipating large numbers of influenza and COVID-19 and are especially concerned for our vulnerable populations—particularly those in long term care facilities.”

Before the outbreak, the nursing home reported a total of 34 residents had tested positive for COVID-19, according to the state state department of health. Five residents had died from the virus, and 23 workers also had tested positive as of Oct. 7.

Several of Indiana’s coronavirus statistics have seen steep jumps since last month when Gov. Eric Holcomb lifted nearly all of Indiana’s coronavirus restrictions on businesses and crowd sizes.

“It’s a reminder every day, no matter if it’s one case or a hundred, that we need to be vigilant,” Holcomb said in a statement.

Holcomb has resisted calls to reimpose tougher restrictions in addition to the statewide mask mandate, but last week chastised those who don’t wear masks while out in public places.

The state health department’s daily update showed Indiana hospitals with 1,425 coronavirus patients as of Monday. Those hospitalizations are at the highest level since early May and are up almost 90 percent in the past month, as is the number of COVID-19 patients being treated in intensive care units.

Indiana’s seven-day rolling average of newly confirmed COVID-19 infections was reported at 1,802 as of Monday. That is the highest level the state has seen during the pandemic and has more than doubled since late September.

Residents protest against proposed gravel pit

NOBLESVILLE (AP) — Demonstrators against a proposed 40-acre gravel pit in central Indiana gathered outside City Hall to protest the project claiming it would increase truck traffic, noise and pollution.

About 50 residents protested Monday night that building a gravel pit next to Potter’s Bridge Park in Noblesville would put at risk the health and safety of hundreds of families that

visit the park.

A hearing on the issue has been postponed until next month, according to The Indianapolis Star.

The public hearing before the Plan Commission was to consider the necessary zoning changes from agricultural to an industrial-type use. Beaver Materials owner Chris Beaver and the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department say they want the pit built so

they can fill it with water to make a lake a decade from now.

Though the gravel pit hearing was removed from the agenda Monday, protesters decided to proceed with the demonstration and gathered a petition with 3,000 names they submitted to the Plan Commission.

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen dropped by the protest and engaged with the demonstrators – though he

said it didn’t mean he was leaning one way or another. He, along with council members and other lawmakers have said they are staying neutral on the plan until they review all the evidence.

Denise Aschleman, a Noblesville senior planner, said the Plan Commission will advance the proposal with a recommendation to pass or reject to the City Council following the November hearing.

Indiana man rescued from northern Minnesota wilderness

ELY, Minn. (AP) — An Indiana man is safe and warm after rescuers found him cold, wet and alone in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of northern Minnesota.

The St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office received a call Saturday night from an Ely-area outfitter that had dropped off Chori Rummel, 34, of Elkhart, Indiana, earlier for his first trip into the wilderness. The solo paddler used a handheld Garmin in-Reach device to send an SOS signal, and a message stating “Help Wet and Cold.”

Capt. Rick Slatten of the department’s rescue squad said Monday that they had to cross Nina-Moose Lake, roughly 20 miles north of Ely, in cold and snowy conditions.

“It was as dark as I’ve ever seen it out there. You couldn’t see anything. It was snowing heavily, fog was moving in, and there was ice on the lake,” Sean Williams, a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. “We had to break through ice to get to the middle of the lake, and when we made it to the middle, it was so dark we had to use a GPS to find the shore and his

campsite.”

Rescuers found Rummel in a tent inside a lightweight sleeping bag, wearing his one remaining set of dry clothes. He was experiencing hypothermia. The rescue team lit a fire, warmed him up, then brought him to safety.

Rummel, who was only one day into what he intended to be a weeklong visit, told the Star Tribune he sent his distress message once his hands became stiff from the wet and cold.

“I made a poor choice of gloves,” Rummel said. “They said waterproof on the packaging, but they weren’t. If it wouldn’t have been for my hands, I would have stayed out there longer, but you can’t work very good if you can’t use your hands. It got so cold, my cellphone shut down on me.”

Slatten said Rummel is fortunate to be alive. Even if he had been strong enough to make it out on his own, the officer said, the ice had become so thick that Rummel would have had to carry out his canoe and gear, rather than paddle out.

Rummel said his experience has not dissuaded him from trying again, “but not until June.”



MU baseball earns ABCA Academic Award for second straight year

Winners must post a team GPA of at least 3.0

By DILLON BENDER

For the second straight year, the Manchester University baseball team earned the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award in July.

Teams that earn ABCA Team Academic Excellence honors must post a combined team grade point average of at least a 3.0 during the current academic year. Manchester University is among 110 NCAA Division III institutions honored this year, including seven members of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director at Manchester University.

MU men's soccer earns USC Team Academic Award

The men posted a 3.20 team GPA in 2019-20

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University men's soccer team earned United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award honors at the end of September.

The men posted a 3.20 team grade point average during the 2019-20 academic year.

A total of 914 college teams (345 men, 569 women) earned the Team Academic Award. United Soccer Coaches annually celebrates the academic achievements of college soccer teams whose student-athletes collectively demonstrate a commitment to excellence in their studies over a full academic year. Team Academic Award recipients are active members of the United Soccer Coaches College Services Program with a composite grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale for all players on the roster for the 2019-20 academic year.

The Manchester University men's soccer program has garnered United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award honors 11 times since 2000 (2000-2002, 2011-2016, 2018, 2020).

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Submit your news

The *Plain Dealer* is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

■ Emailed to sports@wabashplainedealer.com.

■ Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

■ Mailed into *Plain Dealer*, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals emailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The *Plain Dealer* reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

Wabash, Manchester boys XC teams advance to semi-state

Local runners competed Saturday in IHSAA regional action

By ROY CHURCH

It was another great day for Wabash County cross country runners Saturday in IHSAA regional action.

At the Marion Regional, the Wabash boys finished third for the second week in a row by five or fewer points to move on to the New Haven Semi-state at Huntington University. They will be accompanied by Southwood's Braden Sweet, who took first place for the second week in a row, and Northfield's Andrew Burns and Mara Zolman.

Meanwhile, at the Logansport Regional, Manchester's boys finished fifth to advance to the New Prairie Semi-state and will be joined by Josie Briner from the girls squad.

Wabash

The Apaches finished third with 75 points, just four points behind Oak Hill (71). But Wabash got revenge on Huntington North (80), which beat them by one point last week. Belmont, which won its sectional last week, won the team title with 50 points.

Senior Zack Reed finished fifth to lead the Apaches, who qualified for semi-state for the fourth straight year. His time was 16:16.6, more than 14 seconds faster than his sectional time when he finished third.

Sophomore David Ford was 13th in 16:48.8, senior Jarrett Wilson was 16th in 16:56.5, freshman Kaden Vogel was 21st in 17:24.6 and senior Caelan McDougles was 22nd in 17:25.1 to round out the Wabash scoring. Freshmen Troy Guenin-Hodson (17:32.6) and Trevor Daughtry (18:06.0) were 25th and 45th, respectively, for the Apaches.

Reed, Vogel, McDougles, Guenin-Hodson and Daughtry all posted Personal Records (PRs).

"It was a great day of racing," said Head Coach Ryan Evans. "Our freshmen, never having competed in a regional before put down some impressive performances."

"After the sectional each athlete and I talked about something specific they needed to work on during the race to make them have the best performance of the year to date. They executed very well."

"Our upperclassmen, having been in

this position before, were very helpful and motivating this entire week," he added. "I am looking forward to what's in store at the semi-state."

Wabash senior Sierra Hall and freshman Calisen Kugler, who qualified as individuals at the sectional, finished 73rd and 74th, respectively, in the girls race, but failed to advance. Their times were 23:50.7 and 23:51.8, respectively, both career PRs.

Junior Addison Wiley of Huntington North captured the girls race, winning in 17:56.8 while leading the Lady Vikings (59 points) to the team title over Fort Wayne South Side (71) and Oak Hill (82).

Southwood

Sweet, hoping to make his second appearance at the State Finals on Oct. 31, crushed last week's sectional-winning time, dropping under the 16-minute mark to 15:48.1. Last week's time was 16:06.3. By comparison, the winning time Saturday at Logansport was 16:27.8.

Sweet led the race most of the way, but was caught by Belmont's Deion Guise in the latter stages and the two were neck-and-neck down the chute. Guise, a junior, finished in 15:48.3, 2/100th of a second behind the champion.

Sweet's winning time was a PR for the young man who will try to improve on his eighth-place finish in last year's semi-state and 35th spot at the 2019 State Finals.

His time was also a school record, eclipsing the 22-year-old mark set by BJ Needler at the Manchester Semi-state. Needler's record was 15:49.

"It was a very challenging race for Braden," his coach, Tonya Boone, said. "That's what we were hoping for from Belmont." She added that two Belmont runners had led last year's regional race for the most part before Sweet passed them for the win.

"Braden is pretty driven," said Boone, who has coached him since sixth grade. Coaching cross country for 10 years, she took over the Southwood varsity teams in 2016, Sweet's freshman year.

Southwood's boys, who finished fourth at sectional, were ninth Saturday. Other runners for the Knights were freshman Casey Boardman (59th in 18:34.4), senior Caden Prickett (72nd in 19:04.6), freshman Landon Mitchell (79th in 19:36.0), sophomore Devin Danzy (85th in 20:55.7) and junior Braden Smith (88th in 22:33.1).

Unfortunately, Sweet's sister, Aleia, who qualified as an individual for

Saturday's event with a 32nd-place finish a week earlier, did not advance. A sophomore, she was 77th in 24:06.9. Teammate Mariah Brown, a senior, finished 81st in 24:18.9 in her final meet for the Lady Knights.

Northfield

Senior Andrew Burns and freshman Mara Zolman finished 24th (17:31.3) and 42nd (21:51.2), respectively, in their respective races Saturday at Indiana Wesleyan University. Burns was second among individuals not on a semi-state-qualifying team and Zolman was ninth. Both qualified for the regional with Top 20 finishers at sectional. Burns finished 169th in last year's semi-state.

Manchester

At Logansport, the Squires were again led by senior Carter Bedke, who finished third in 16:42.0, behind the winner, Brayden Cornutt of Western in 16:27.8.

Western, with 49 points, finished second to team champion Warsaw (38). Culver Academies was third (92), Plymouth fourth (107) and Manchester fifth (153). Warsaw, Culver, Plymouth and the Squires finished 1-2-3-4 at the Manchester sectional.

Following Bedke across the finish line for Manchester were junior Cade Jones (33rd in 18:02.9), sophomore Raven King (36th in 18:08.8), sophomore Lane Stetzel (18:38.3), freshman Jacob Hasting (60th in 19:15.6), senior Kedrick Metzger (67th in 19:36.0) and sophomore Caden Marcum (75th in 19:58.5).

In the girls race, Warsaw edged Culver Academies by one point for the team title while Manchester, which was fourth at the sectional, was 10th. The Lady Squires tied Plymouth, but lost the tie based on the sixth finisher.

Briner, a sophomore, led Manchester with a 26th-place finish in 21:10.1 and will advance to the New Prairie Regional, where she finished 63rd last year. She got the tenth and last spot among individuals from non-qualifying teams Saturday. Senior Alexis Allen of Culver won the regional individual title in 18:27.8.

Following Briner were senior Anna Markham (40th in 22:05.1), freshman Gracie Dale (54th in 23:01.3), freshman Evyn Fox (71st in 24:02.5), freshman Miriam Struble-Hedstrom (75th in 24:22.7), freshman Paulette Martin (83rd in 25:12.4) and junior Ainsley West (86 in 26:24.4). The Lady Squires competed without junior Kambree Cashdollar.

"We ran well," Head Coach Jody Sarber said. The boys team last qualified for semi-state in 2017. The girls made it through last year and Briner finished 63rd.

Elsewhere

The No.1-ranked Columbus North boys team hosted and won its regional event Saturday, defeating Seymour (20-71), which beat them at the Brown County Sectional one week earlier. Andy Keffaber, a 1995 graduate of Northfield, is in his fourth year as an assistant coach. The girls also won, with its first five runners finishing 1-2-3-6-7. Both teams will compete in the Brown County Semi-state.

Another Northfield graduate, Darren Haupt (01), guided the Ross-ville boys team to a fifth-place finish Saturday and a spot in the New Prairie Semi-state along with Manchester. His girls team was not as fortunate, finishing ninth. Both teams were fifth at the Harrison (West Lafayette) Sectional.

Avon's girls team qualified for the Shelbyville Semi-state with a fifth-place finish at the Ben Davis Regional. Mary Ann (Cosby) Abramson, a 1990 Wabash graduate, is in her fourth year as an assistant coach. Her daughter Malyka is also an assistant coach.

"It was a really strange day," Mary Ann said. "Our No. 1 runner fell at the last turn and could have gotten up and finished, but a spectator helped her up and that disqualified her. And our No. 3 runner was under the weather."

No. 5-ranked Zionsville won the meet and No. 13-ranked Brownsburg was runner-up and it will only get worse when Avon runs into No.1-ranked Carmel, No. 9 North Central and No. 13 Noblesville at Shelbyville. This will be at least the 10th straight semi-state appearance for the Avon girls.

In other cross country news

Two Wabash County runners were named Wednesday, Oct. 14, to the Indiana Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches' 2020 All-Academic Team. They are Southwood senior Braden Sweet and Manchester senior Elijah Burlingame on the boys list.

Receiving Honorable Mention were Manchester senior Kaden Dillon and Southwood senior Mariah Brown on the girls list and Manchester seniors Carter Bedke and Kedrick Metzger and Wabash senior Jarrett Wilson on the boys team.

Roy Church may be reached by email at sports@wabashplainedealer.com.

Manchester volleyball drops season-opening doubleheader at Adrian

The team was in action for the first time on Sunday afternoon

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University volleyball team was in action for the first time during the 2020-21 academic year on Sunday afternoon. The Spartans traveled to Adrian College for a doubleheader.

The host Bulldogs swept Sunday's doubleheader, winning match one in four sets while taking the second match in three sets.

Match No. 1

Adrian Won 3-1, 25-13, 28-30, 25-11, 25-19

Sophomore Halle Planck, from Gas City and Mississinewa High School, led the Spartans with 14 kills in the first match of the day. Senior Alexandria Collins, from Lowell, tallied 21 assists and seven digs. Senior Mackenzie Rooks, from Columbus and Columbus North High School, collected 17 digs.

The Spartans outlasted the Bulldogs in the second set 30-28 after outthitting Adrian .119 to .068.

For the match, Adrian posted a .186 hitting percentage.

Match No. 2

Adrian Won 3-0, 25-16, 28-26, 25-22

The Spartans couldn't overcome the Bulldogs in the second match of the day Sunday afternoon in the Merillat Sport & Fitness Center.

Manchester nearly tied the match up in the second set but fell just short in the stanza to host Adrian, 30-28.

Freshman Joy Maze, from Greenwood and Greenwood Community High School, reached double figures in kills with a team-leading 12.

Senior Lauren Gandhi, from Westfield and Guerin Catholic High School, led the Black and Gold with 11 assists in the second match of the day.

Junior Dori Bammer, from Zionsville, collected 11 digs.

The Spartans (0-2) are scheduled to host Bluffton in a doubleheader at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena.

Manchester will face Adrian College (2-3) in another doubleheader at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23 in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Indiana High School Football Poll

The Associated Press Top 10 Indiana high school football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through games of Tuesday, October 20, rating points and previous rankings:

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Center Grove	(16)	9-0	320	1
2. Westfield	-	8-1	276	2
3. Lafayette Jeff	-	9-0	240	3
4. Brownsburg	-	7-1	214	4
5. Elkhart	-	7-0	188	5
6. Carmel	-	7-2	170	6
7. Merrillville	-	7-1	136	7
8. Homestead	-	8-1	88	9
9. Lawrence North	-	6-3	64	10
10. Hamilton Southeastern	-	6-2	32	NR
Others receiving votes:	Indpls N. Central 18. Carroll (Fort Wayne) 12. Avon 2.			

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Indpls Cathedral	(16)	8-1	320	1
2. Ft. Wayne Dwenger	-	8-1	276	2
3. Valparaiso	-	5-0	252	3
4. Whiteland	-	7-1	208	4
5. New Palestine	-	7-1	200	5
6. Decatur Central	-	6-2	174	6
7. Floyd Central	-	7-2	126	7
8. Lafayette Harrison	-	6-3	98	8
9. Mishawaka	-	5-3	54	10
10. Michigan City	-	4-2	44	9
Others receiving votes:	Zionsville 6. Castle 2.			

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Mt. Vernon (Hancock)	(13)	9-0	306	1
2. Ev. Central	(3)	9-0	286	2
3. Mooresville	-	8-1	258	3
4. Indpls Roncalli	-	7-1	228	5
5. E. Central	-	7-2	156	4
6. Leo	-	8-1	150	7
7. Hobart	-	6-2	108	8
8. Jasper	-	7-2	82	9
9. Lowell	-	7-1	78	6
(tie) Silver Creek	-	9-0	78	10
Others receiving votes:	Delta 10. Ev. Memorial 8. Northridge 6. Northview 4. E. Noble 2.			

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Indpls Chatard	(12)	7-1	294	1
2. Mishawaka Marian	(2)	7-0	284	2
3. W. Lafayette	-	8-1	252	3
4. Southridge	(1)	9-0	228	4
5. Danville	-	7-0	192	5
6. Lawrenceburg	-	8-1	158	6
7. Norwell	-	8-1	132	7
8. Tri-West	-	7-2	76	9
9. Gibson Southern	-	6-3	74	10
10. Indpls Brebeuf	-	3-4	24	8
Others receiving votes:	Indian Creek 20. Indpls Ritter 14. Ft. Wayne Concordia 8. Hanover Central 2. Mt. Vernon (Posey) 2.			

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Andean	(15)	8-1	316	1
2. Eastbrook	-	8-1	276	2
3. Pioneer	-	8-1	256	3
4. Eastside	-	8-1	204	4
5. Triton Central	-	7-1	174	6
6. Eastern (Greentown)	(1)	9-0	156	8
7. Fairfield	-	8-0	94	10
8. Heritage Christian	-	6-2	88	5
9. S. Vermillion	-	7-1	78	9
10. Tell City	-	6-2	32	7

SCOREBOARD

Others receiving votes: Tipton 20. Ev. Mater Dei 16. Bremen 12. LaVille 10. Rensselaer 10. Western Boone 10. Seeger 8.

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S. Adams	(15)	8-0	318	1
2. Indpls Lutheran	(1)	8-1	274	2
3. Southwood	-	9-0	254	3
4. W. Washington	-	7-0	194	4
5. Covenant Christian	-	9-0	192	5
6. S. Putnam	-	9-0	188	6
7. Adams Central	-	6-2	116	7
8. Parke Heritage	-	5-1	98	8
9. Monroe Central	-	6-1	66	10
10. N. Judson	-	7-2	44	9
Others receiving votes:	Northfield 6. Lafayette Catholic 4. Perry Central 2. N. Central (Farmersburg) 2. N. Decatur 2.			

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(tie) Silver Creek	-	9-0	78	10
Others receiving votes:	Delta 10. Ev. Memorial 8. Northridge 6. Northview 4. E. Noble 2.			

Kansas City	5	1	0	.833	175	127
Las Vegas	3	2	0	.600	151	152
Denver	2	3	0	.400	100	110
L.A. Chargers	1	4	0	.200	110	125

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	2	4	0	.333	173	218
Phila.	1	4	1	.250	141	175
N.Y. Giants	1	5	0	.166	101	152
Washington	1	5	0	.166	108	162

Parents disapprove of new boyfriend of different race

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 22-year-old woman who was adopted. I recently started dating an amazing man who happens to be of another race. My parents, whom I love very much, told me that if I stay with him, they will disown me. They have made many horrible comments about my relationship, and I'm at a loss about what to do. I love them, but I also love my boyfriend. Please give me advice. What should I do? – Hopeless In Indiana

Dear Abby



DEAR HOPELESS: You need to figure out which is more important to you, the hope for a future with this amazing man who is new in your life, or your relationship with your parents. It's a tough choice to make, and there are variables to consider. Are you OK with your parents dictating who you can date in terms of race? Is this person as serious as you are about this new relationship? Are you financially and emotionally independent?

Start by making a list of the pros and the cons. Once you are finished, understanding that neither choice will be pain free, you may have a clearer idea of what your decision must be.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 30 years still desires me. I know he has been faithful. He's a wonderful father, has plenty of friends, a warm sense of humor and even in tough times has always managed to be a good provider. We have never wanted for anything.

He is in decent shape for his age, and some women have commented that he is handsome. Yet I recoil at his advances or pretend to be asleep. I feel like I owe him sex since it's part of marriage, and then I resent him because I feel I am letting him down. – No Desire Down South

DEAR NO DESIRE: You need to figure out whether your negative reaction to your husband's advances is emotional or physical. Have you always felt this way, or is it (relatively) recent?

Hormonal changes as women age can be a reason for lack of libido, and if that's what's causing your problem, it is something you should talk about with your gynecologist because it may be fixable. Start there, because you owe this both to yourself and your husband.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé and I decided to live together. Although I knew at the time that his cousin and two younger people lived in the house with him, he promised to make sure there was room for me and my 13-year-old son, who has Asperger's. However, things are tense in the house because someone is stealing my things, and no one will admit it. There is also constant fighting about how I should raise my son because everyone in the house has an opinion and wants to be his boss.

I am at my wits' end. I love my fiancé, but I can't take much more of the anxiety they put me through. What should I do? – Torn In Tennessee

DEAR TORN: Have a frank conversation with your fiancé about the fact that this living situation isn't working out for you. The two of you should then discuss options. The most obvious would be that some folks need to make other living arrangements – either you and your son, or the cousin and the two younger people. This doesn't necessarily mean the engagement has to be broken, but things cannot continue as they are.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Over there
- 7 Sporty sock
- 13 Beethoven's Third Symphony
- 14 Soap opera
- 15 Very or too
- 16 Frontier saloon amenities
- 17 Popcorn buy
- 18 Hotel
- 19 Prompt
- 22 Ltd. cousin
- 24 Germ killer
- 28 First name in advice
- 29 Elevator name
- 30 Luncheonette list
- 31 Air-pump meas.
- 32 Wear and tear
- 33 Florida port
- 34 Seattle's Sound
- 36 Tin container
- 38 Galley slave's tool
- 39 Funny Bombeck

40 Small religious group

- 41 Disposed of
- 42 Cherished
- 43 Devotee
- 44 TV spots
- 45 Cut timber
- 47 Untrained
- 50 Bad-mouth
- 53 Part of a pencil
- 57 Addison's partner
- 58 Drive-in feature
- 59 — up (got ready)
- 60 Clips the wool of sheep

DOWN

- 1 Certain vote
- 2 Airport code for O'Hare
- 3 Autumn mo.
- 4 Restrict one's intake
- 5 Beige
- 6 Hare cousins
- 7 Tomato jellies

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ABBA	BOB	JAYS
SOIL	BRA	UHOH
HALT	BIRD	SEYE
SLED	ORO	MOA
REPLETE		
ALF	JOEL	RACE
MATT	AI	GNUS
BIDE	TB	BONES
ORES	EAVE	ESE
SEXTANT		
EOS	AIL	TYRO
GLOBAL	AR	KERR
GLUE	ESA	EBAY
YALE	STE	SALE

- 8 Horse stopper
- 9 Mom's mom
- 10 Female principle
- 11 Thai neighbor
- 12 Golfer
- Ernie —
- 19 Imposed limits on
- 20 Wavering
- 21 Riddle
- 23 Brother's girls
- 25 Shark tagalong
- 26 Like some debts
- 27 Sentinels
- 29 Absent
- 33 Bomb ingredient
- 35 Before now
- 37 Movie star
- 40 Endorsed a check
- 46 Eye amorously
- 48 Curved entrance
- 49 Item for sale
- 50 Chow mein additive
- 51 Goddess of fateful recklessness
- 52 Pasture
- 54 Vast expanse
- 55 Always, to Poe
- 56 ER personnel

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13							14						
15							16						
			17				18						
19	20	21				22	23			24	25	26	27
28					29					30			
31					32				33				
34			35			36	37				38		
39						40					41		
42						43					44		
			45	46			47	48	49				
50	51	52					53			54	55	56	
57							58						
59							60						

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

	5			7	9			
	7		4	8			5	
8			3	2		9		
1			5		3			7
6								9
3			9		8			6
		6		5	1			2
	1			9	2		8	
			7	3			9	

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
5	6	4	2	9	3	7	1	8
9	2	1	4	7	8	5	6	3
7	3	8	5	1	6	4	2	9
4	7	5	8	2	9	1	3	6
8	1	2	6	3	4	9	5	7
3	9	6	7	5	1	2	8	4
6	8	7	1	4	5	3	9	2
2	5	3	9	6	7	8	4	1
1	4	9	3	8	2	6	7	5

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

- TWYIT
- BOREX
- NNEEIG
- SENSAO

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Ans. here: TWYIT, BOREX, NNEEIG, SENSAO

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

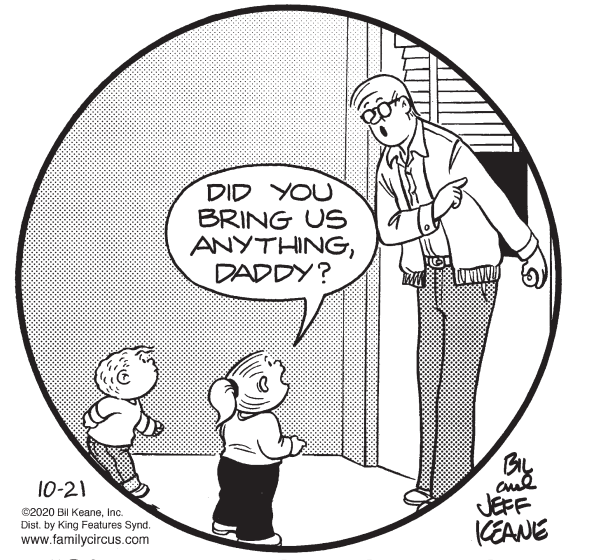
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

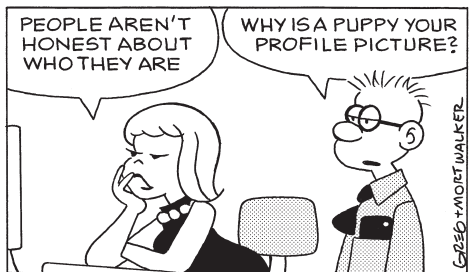
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

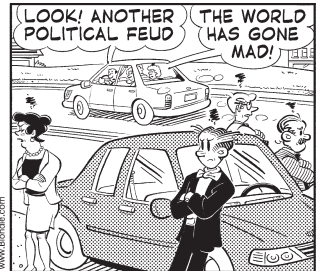
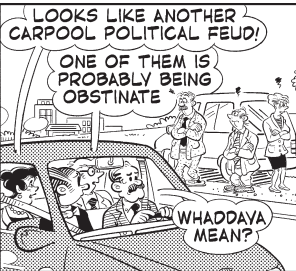


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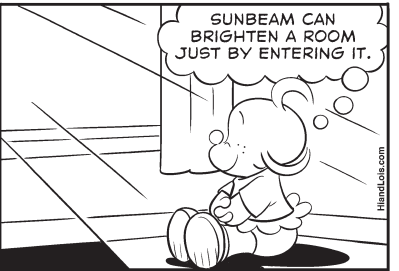
BEETLE BAILEY



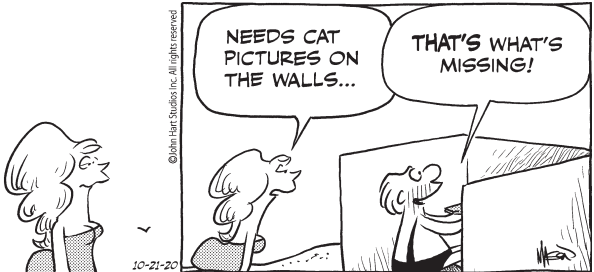
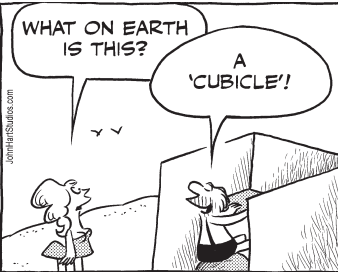
BLONDIE



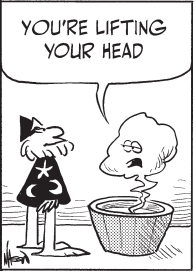
HI & LOIS



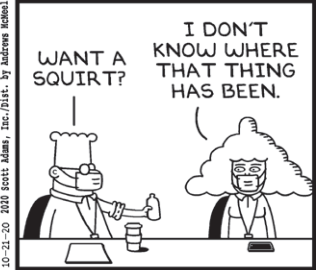
BC



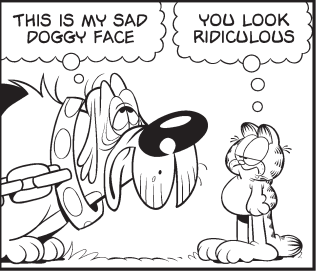
WIZARD OF ID



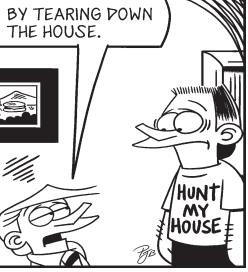
DILBERT



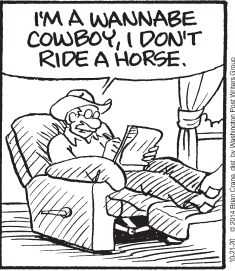
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Christ will come again to bring an end to this present world

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Are we living in the end times? Is the Antichrist alive today and will Jesus return soon? – E.T.

A: The world does seem to be getting worse, and this should remind us that some-day Christ will come again to bring an end to this present world. Jesus taught that certain events or signs would point to His coming, and we certainly see many of these today. Jesus warned, for instance, that before He comes again “you will hear of wars and rumors of wars... famines... and earthquakes in various places... false prophets will rise up and deceive many” (Matthew 24:6-7, 11). Satan will thrash about in one last burst of evil,

hoping to capture as many souls as possible before his inevitable end. So is Christ's coming near? It may well be, although the Bible warns us not to make precise predictions. But we must be alert and ready for His coming by being certain of our commitment to Christ, and approaching every day as if it were our last. We should be certain of our salvation in Him. The Apostle Paul spoke of this hope. “For the grace of

God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things” (Titus 2:11-15).

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“RGTBW BT KEKU LAIBAD, BO'T
DFDMUOXBZH. B NIKU JMGRT KZJ
OXKO'T EXKO B VDBDFD BEKT VLMZ
OL JL.” — DIFBZ CLZDT

Previous Solution: “All people have been doing since the dawn of time is trying to figure out how to live this life and be happy.” — Will Arnett

TODAY'S CLUE: d sjenb N

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
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Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
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Indiana Senate
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State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
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1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
[www.in.gov/cgi-bin/
legislative/contact/
contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

The worst Pelosi-Trump stimulus deal would be none

In just over a week, President Trump has traversed the distance from declaring any further pre-election stimulus bill dead to demanding a multitrillion-dollar package. Last week, he ordered Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to cease talks with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whom he accused of demanding too much while "not negotiating in good faith." On Thursday, he said the government should spend more than the \$1.8 trillion that was his administration's highest offer to date, accusing Mnuchin of failing to "come home with the bacon."

Beyond the president's incoherent, irresponsible approach to aiding individuals, businesses and governments ravaged by the pandemic, the backflip showed how much leverage Pelosi has at the moment. With the economic recovery showing signs of sputtering, coronavirus infections rebounding across much of the country, and Trump's polling disadvantage against Joe Biden drifting into double digits, the administration's offers are creeping ever closer to the \$2.2 trillion mark set by a measure House Democrats passed at the

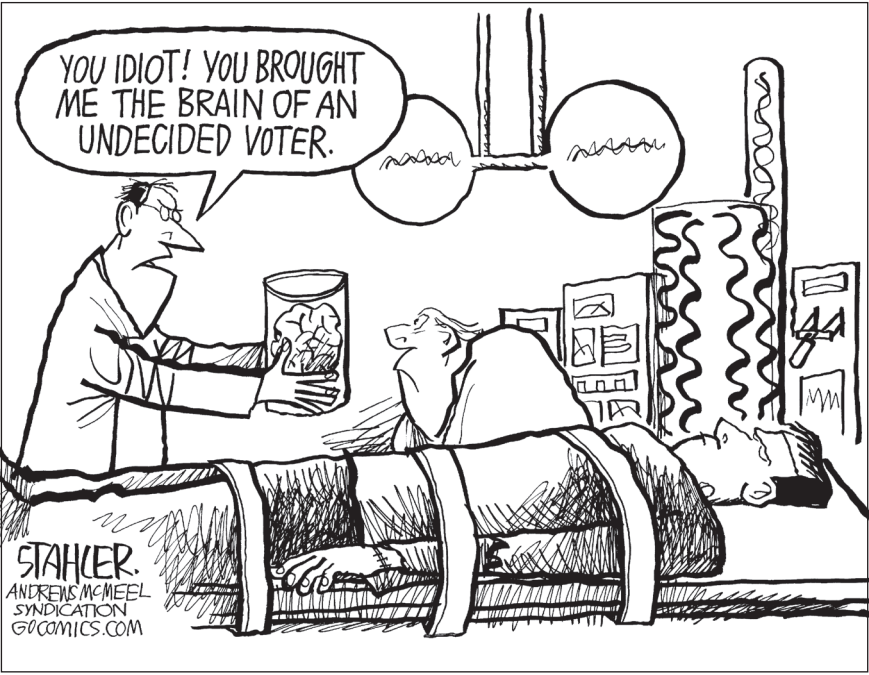
beginning of this month. The administration has acceded to Pelosi's demands in more than just dollars. Mnuchin said this week that the administration would go along with the speaker's call to fund a national coronavirus testing and tracing program. And the administration has offered \$300 billion in aid to state and local governments, triple the spending approved in March and April despite the president's avowed disdain for helping "Democrat states."

The pain will be felt regardless of party if such spending isn't forthcoming. It's already too late for some government employees and services in California, where lawmakers hoped to fill a fiscal chasm with federal aid that never came. Thursday was the deadline to reverse \$11 billion in cuts to schools, courts, parks and the state workforce as lawmakers once hoped to do with an assist from Washington.

The speaker's power will wane, however, in a few weeks – and with it perhaps any prospect of a much-needed federal lifeline for months. Whether the president wins or loses, the election will relieve the immediate political

pressure for him to send checks to voters and bailouts to businesses. That could preclude supplemental unemployment payments, aid to devastated industries, and state and local government assistance just as layoffs, closures and illnesses are rising again. Even if Pelosi and Mnuchin reach an agreement, Senate Republicans could render it moot, as Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has all but promised to do. But Trump's support could sway some of McConnell's members; so could the coming election, in which several of them are endangered. If a belated instinct for political self-preservation has finally motivated Trump to put a reasonable offer on the table, Pelosi and her fellow Democrats shouldn't stand in the way of sending it to the Senate despite the temptation to deny Trump an election-eve win. An unserious president kept the government from helping Americans in need for months. The House should be sure not to stand in the way now.

This editorial was first published in the San Francisco Chronicle.



Honest self-assessment key to future growth

From time to time, county and municipal governments face the need to perform economic development planning. Generally, this means outlining priorities for investment in public infrastructure or public services. In some communities, this

Michael Hicks



might be pretty complex, involving some deep thinking about urban expansion over the coming decades. Elsewhere, the planning may be modest, involving expansions of parks or improving a road access. This work is important, but not in the way most elected leaders or community members believe. The truth is almost no economic development planning has short impacts on the local economy. Most of the time, local governments play no role in the size or mix of economic activity in their community over the next decade or so. However, today's planning does have longer term impacts that require decades to fully mature.

As an example, across Indiana's counties, the share of adults holding a bachelor's degree in 1970 is more highly correlated with economic growth since 2000 than with the use of TIF or tax abatements. Places that were attractive to college grads 50 years ago are doing better now than places scrambling to win short-term economic development deals today.

The most common mistake communities make when undertaking planning lies in failing to conduct a serious self-assessment. This can be difficult for several reasons. If community leaders are focused on the short term, there is a natural tendency to ignore long term problems. This is almost always disastrous. A serious self-assessment can be discouraging or even painful for people who love the place in which they live. More commonly, the data alone don't tell us much about ourselves. It takes well-trained analysts to compare communities and explain long-term trends. I have two contrasting examples of planning.

In 2016, Shelbyville approached my colleagues at the Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State to help with planning. The mayor, City

Council and Community Foundation all perceived a need to think deeply about where the city was headed and asked for a frank community resiliency study. In early meetings, some citizens expressed concern that the city had too many families renting homes. Several were also concerned that there was nothing to draw people to Shelbyville. These are reasonable concerns, that are nearly impossible to assess without data and examination of data.

Analysis of the data told a different story. Shelbyville is attracting young families, drawn to their excellent schools. This prompted the community to focus on developing their assets of livable communities and quality schools. The results of Shelbyville's hard work led them to become a Stellar Communities finalist and attracted nearly \$40 million in downtown investment.

This is a case where civic leaders asked tough, even uncomfortable questions, hoping to make a long-term difference. One civic leader reported that "the process and results of the Economic Resiliency Study gave confidence to local government and economic development leaders to invest significantly in quality of life projects."

Had they not been willing to hear unpleasant news, Shelbyville might have missed an important growth opportunity, or worse. They might have felt desperate and incentivized short-term job growth, the bane of so many Midwestern municipalities. Today, Shelbyville enjoys a well-deserved reputation as a growing city, with good quality of life. This in turn attracted more jobs and people to the community.

At the other end of the spectrum is Muncie. Few places in the Midwest are as endowed with as many assets as this city. Muncie can boast a research university with all the research and data assets the city could ever deploy, three large foundations and proximity to Indianapolis suburbs. There are several strong employers in the city, along with a large group of civic-minded citizens. Muncie should be booming, but it is quite the opposite.

Today, there are seven or eight economic development groups claiming some responsibility for the place, of

which only two have any statutory authority. These groups have multiple and often competing planning efforts of wildly varying quality. The best involved carefully developed a bottom-up approach, seeking insight from every demographic group and neighborhood. At the other end is what one urban planner called "... an elitist structure, with a lack of transparency, no skin in the game, building a monolithic semi-isolated structure in the depths of a historic neighborhood."

To be fair to Muncie, the criminality of the previous administration plagues almost every economic or community development effort. The new administration is repairing damage as quickly as they can. Still, the one feature common to most of the economic development and planning missteps is the inability to face uncomfortable truths. This has some predictably costly, often long-term consequences.

All plans require funding, and investors ranging from federal agencies to banks view these plans with an experienced, critical eye. They frequently use external reviewers to check data on submissions. Proposals that gloss over tough realities face a difficult time attracting investors for years to come. But, there are worse risks. Plans that include zoning may limit the types of growth that are most likely, while chasing low probability events, like a new industrial facility. The worst outcome is investment in a project that is not economically viable. Whether this is a maker's space or apartment complex, it saddles the community with paying for the wrong infrastructure, in the wrong place, at the wrong time. This is the true economic development history of Muncie.

Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Hicks earned doctoral and master's degrees in economics from the University of Tennessee and a bachelor's degree in economics from Virginia Military Institute. He has authored two books and more than 60 scholarly works focusing on state and local public policy, including tax and expenditure policy and the impact of Wal-Mart on local economies.

Food supply shakeup on the horizon

USDA has been funding pre-assembled food boxes that we have been receiving to distribute through all of our programs for three months. These are great. They contain, produce, dairy products, fluid milk and meat. Tens of thousands of families have been receiving these boxes, sometimes weekly to provide a stable source of food.

The funding for this program called CFAP (Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program), also known as the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, will end at the end of October. For us, this food supply – eight semi-loads per week – will be very difficult to find enough

food volume as a replacement. Over the last three months, this program has made up about 80 percent of all the food we have been distributing.

We have been able to streamline our operations with getting in pre-packed food that helped make up for the deficiency in volunteers we have experienced. With a small remnant of seven National Guard soldiers remaining at our facility, their focus will be assisting with the logistics of getting food moved from here to there. The absence of a reliable variety and consistent source of food puts some real sketchiness in our ability to maintain the level of food distribution we have managed since March. We are working the connections we have with our traditional food donors, but that system is based on when food growers, manufacturers, distribution centers and grocery stores have the random need to donate.

Food doesn't get donated because a company wants to be generous. It gets donated because they have an inventory problem that they must address. It's less expensive to donate it to us and we pick it up than for them to haul it to the dump and pay the dump fees. Almost all the time it's perfectly good food that needs a new home. All the food banks around the country are saving the food suppliers a lot of money they would be faced with paying to landfills if we didn't exist. We are happy to get what we do, but it still feels a little inequitable. That being said, we will jump through hoops to get the opportunity to put this random group of items back into the hands of struggling families who need help. So, the message that needs to be shared is that the products we will be distributing them beginning in November will probably look a lot more like the products we were distributing before COVID-19 was around.

Most of the agencies – including food pantries, soup kitchens and community centers – we supply have operated in a drive-through or outside format over the last 6 months out of necessity. The opportunity to send them pre-packed boxes with a consistent mix of products has been a real blessing. They haven't had the number of volunteers they've had in the past, so pre-packed boxes have been a good fit for fewer hands. Many operators have expressed their hesitancy to open their doors for families to once again enter and hope they can continue the drive-through method well into next year or beyond. Second Harvest fully supports their decision to operate as a drive-through, but we will not be able to pre-package items for them beginning in November.

We are aggressively recruiting volunteers to help us in our warehouse to sort items and at our Tailgate Distributions. The absence of volunteers to assist with our tailgate distributions will potentially force us reduce the frequency in some counties. We are still seeing the numbers of families stay as high as the current trend over the last five months with increases at some locations. Many families are asking questions about the protocol as they are coming for the first time. If you visit www.curehunger.org and click on Volunteers, we have an effective volunteer registration software system called GivePulse that allows you to pre-register as a volunteer or for your group to be scheduled into our warehouse activity or at one of our tailgate distributions.

For questions, connect with us through Kellie Arrowood, our Volunteer Coordinator at karrowood@curehunger.org or 765-287-8698 ext. 100. If you have a couple of hours to spare and are willing to work in a safe environment, the community needs your help to keep the food assistance flowing to our struggling neighbors.

Tim Kean is the president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. The Second Harvest Food Bank network of 95-member agencies, programs and 35 schools provide relationship building and food assistance to more than 65,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties



SCHOOLS

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an individual is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19.

“The Wabash Health Department determined close contacts in conjunction with school personnel and advised us who to quarantine,” stated MCS.

The individually reported MCS cases include:

■ Sept. 28: One case each at MES and MHS, with five people quarantined.

■ Oct. 10: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

■ Oct. 14: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Oct. 15: One case at MES, with five people quarantined. And one case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

■ Oct. 16: One case at MHS, with 34 people quarantined.

Otherwise, in Wabash County, only Emmanuel Christian School and Heartland Career Center have not reported data to ISDH.

A request for comment from Kyle Wieland, WHS principal, and Jason Callahan, Wabash City Schools superintendent, was not immediately returned as of press time.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Local figures

On Saturday, the ISDH reported 16 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 366, with 5,609 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 8.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 15.1 percent.

On Sunday, the ISDH reported 10 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 376, with 5,672 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 12.4 percent.

On Monday, the ISDH reported nine new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 385.

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported six new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 391, with 5,751 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 9.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 12.6 percent.

The state still reported nine local deaths.

As of Tuesday, the ISDH reported the following Wabash County demographics for positive cases by age group:

■ Ages 0 to 19: 13.8 percent

■ Ages 20 to 29: 16.1 per-

cent

■ Ages 30 to 39: 14.6 percent

■ Ages 40 to 49: 11.3 percent

■ Ages 50 to 59: 12.3 percent

■ Ages 60 to 69: 13.3 percent

■ Ages 70 to 79: 8.7 percent

■ Ages 80 and above: 10 percent

The ISDH reported the following gender breakdowns for Wabash County positive cases:

■ Female: 59.6 percent

■ Male: 39.4 percent

■ Unknown: 1 percent

The ISDH reported the following racial breakdowns for Wabash County positive cases:

■ White: 75.7 percent

■ Other race: 9.5percent

■ Black or African American: 1.3 percent

■ Asian: .3 percent

■ Unknown: 13.1 percent

The ISDH reported the following ethnic breakdowns for Wabash County positive cases:

■ Not Hispanic or Latino: 62.4 percent

■ Hispanic or Latino: 3.8 percent

■ Unknown: 33.8 percent

Statewide figures

On Friday, the ISDH announced that 1,551 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. To date, a total of 150,664 Indiana residents are known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

A total of 3,775 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 48 from the previous day. Another 233 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days.

To date, 1,572,350 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 1,564,722 on Monday. A total of 2,551,406 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26.

The ISDH will offer free testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday at the following locations:

■ Lake County Health Department, 2900 W. 93rd Ave., Crown Point

■ Grant County Fairgrounds, 1403 Indiana 18, Marion.

■ First Assembly of God, 2601 27th St., Bedford.

■ Lincolnland Economic Development Corp., 2792 N. Highway 231, Rockport.

To find other testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

a parent.

City now accepting WCS board member applications

The Wabash City Schools (WCS) school board began accepting applications for member positions Wednesday, Sept. 30. The appointees will begin service on Jan. 1, 2021 and serve for four years. Application forms are available through noon Friday, Oct. 30 at City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St. Applicants must live within the WCS district to be considered. Members wishing reappointment must complete a new application. Applicants will be interviewed in a public meeting. For more information, email citycouncil1@cityofwabash.com.

Wabash’s trick-or-treating hours set

At the Monday, Sept. 28 Wabash City Council meeting, Mayor Scott Long announced the city’s official trick-or-treating hours as being from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31.

Trunk-or-treat and trick-or-treating planned in North Manchester

On Friday, North Man-

BALLOTS

From page A1

dropbox outside the building, but that they were “watching it and getting any ballots immediately.”

“They are not finding ballots in the dropbox,” said Draper.

Early voting

Teresa Ehret, deputy of elections and voter registration, said early voting at the Wabash County Clerk’s office would take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday through noon Monday, Nov. 2. The office will also be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31.

In addition to the clerk’s office, voting on Saturday, Oct. 24 will take place at the Town Life Center, 603 N. Bond St., North Manchester; and Woodlawn United Methodist Church, 150 N. 2nd St., Somerset.

In addition to the clerk’s office, voting on Saturday, Oct. 31 will take place at the Town Life Center, 603 N. Bond St., North Manchester; and the Liberty Township Fire Department, 12 S. Wabash Ave.,

Lafontaine.

BMV extends hours for Election Day

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) announced Tuesday, Oct. 20 that all BMV branches will extend hours of operation on Monday, Nov. 2 and Tuesday, Nov. 3 to issue ID cards and driver’s licenses to be used for identification at a polling place.

Branches will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. All locations will remain open through the lunch hour.

As required by state law, branches will only process new, amended, or replacement ID cards, and renewed, amended, or replacement driver’s licenses and learner permits. New driver’s licenses and learner permits will be processed provided the customer has previously completed all required testing. Customers who are required to take a knowledge or driving skills exam to obtain or renew a license may choose to apply for a free ID card to use for voting purposes.

SALARY

From page A1

set at between \$38,757.62 and \$41,223.62.

The following are the salaries for each department, which were approved:

Mayor's Office

■ Mayor: \$71,389

■ Administrative assistant: \$41,945

■ Receptionist/office assistant: \$30,000

■ Total for office: \$143,334

Clerk-Treasurer's Office

■ Clerk-Treasurer: \$62,682

■ Two deputies: \$41,945 each for a total of \$83,890

■ Total for office: \$146,572

City Court Office

■ Judge: \$33,345

■ Court clerk: \$26,100 at a rate of \$17.40 per hour

■ Deputy clerk: \$17,300 at a rate of \$16.60 per hour

■ Total for office: \$76,745

Legal office

■ City Attorney: \$59,052

Common Council and Board of Works

■ Council members:

HARVEST

From page A1

For beans, that took the end off of them. Corn, maybe it stressed it a bit. They are going to be good yields, but they are not going to be records this year.

“I am looking at a lot of beans where the top pod is aborted,” he added. “They were ready to put on a seed but got dry and aborted. Where it was a four-bean pod, there might be three in

it. Where it was a three-bean pod, there might be two in it. That stacks against you on yield pretty quick.”

Still, Shanks believes, so far, this season has been much closer to normal than the previous few.

“It is nice to just have a more normal fall so far and get some work done after last year or two years ago when we had straight-line winds that blew some corn down,” he said. “Last year, everything was real late and wet and slow to dry. This year,

Individuals who hold a driver’s license or ID card that expired after the last general election on Nov. 6, 2018 may use the expired card as proof of identification for voting purposes.

The paper interim credential issued to customers at the branch at the time of the transaction or after a customer has completed an internet transaction is acceptable proof of identification for voting purposes.

The Indiana BMV provides free, state-issued ID cards for voting purposes to any unlicensed Hoosier who is a U.S. citizen, who can provide proper documentation, and who will be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general or municipal election. A complete list of documents can also be found at IN.gov/bmv. The following documents are required to obtain a new state ID card or driver’s license:

■ Proof of Identity documents, such as a birth certificate or passport.

■ Proof of Social Security document, such as a Social Security card, pay stub or W-2.

■ Proof of lawful status, such as a birth certificate or

pieces at \$150 each, for a total of \$1,650

■ Total for office: \$564,673

Parks and Recreation Department

■ Superintendent of parks: \$60,880

■ Foreman: \$43,177

■ Full-time laborer: \$33,293

■ Part-time seasonal: At between \$7.25 per hour and \$16 per hour, for a total of \$70,000

■ Total for office: \$207,350

Pool

■ Pool co-managers: Two at \$5,520, for a total of \$11,040

■ Seasonal help: At between \$7.25 per hour and \$14 per hour, for a total of \$39,000

■ Total for office: \$50,040

Fire Department

■ Fire chief: \$61,317, plus longevity pay

■ Assistant chiefs: Three at \$56,399 each, for a total of \$169,527

■ Lieutenants: Two at \$51,399 each, for a total of \$102,798

■ Lieutenants/medics: Four at \$53,479 each, for a total of

passport.

■ Proof of residency, two documents such as a voter registration card, utility bill or bank statement, dated within the last 60 days.

If your name has been legally changed and now differs from your identity document(s) (i.e., birth certificate or passport), proof of name change must be provided to obtain a state ID or driver’s license.

All branches will resume regular business hours Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Election Day voting

On Election Day, voting locations will include:

■ Heartland REMC, 350 Wedcor Ave.

■ First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

■ Lagro Town Hall, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro.

■ North Manchester Public Library, 405 N. Market St., North Manchester.

■ Pleasant Township Fire Department, 10459 N. Ogden Road, Laketon.

■ Town Life Center, 603 N. Bond St., North Manchester.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

\$213,916

■ Fireman/paramedics: 18 at \$51,399 each, with \$235,000 deducted, for a total of \$925,182

■ First-class firemen: Three at \$49,319, for a total of \$98,638

■ Fire inspectors: Three at \$1,100 each, for a total of \$3,300

■ Longevity pay: \$110,000

■ Office total: \$1,449,678

Police Department

■ Chief of police: \$61,317, plus longevity pay

■ Major: \$57,373

■ Captains: Three at \$52,975 each, for a total of \$158,925

■ Sergeants: Five at \$51,399 each, for a total of \$256,995

■ Patrolman: 15 at \$49,319 each, for a total of \$739,785

■ Detective: Two at \$52,975 each, for a total of \$105,950

■ Certified trainer: \$3,500

■ Longevity pay: \$120,000

■ Civilian clothing: \$300

■ Overtime wages: \$10,000

■ Total for office:

\$1,514,145

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

there is probably a farmer there somewhere and possibly kids. Be aware and give them space.

“Combines and tractors can’t just pull over anywhere,” he added. “There are steep ditches, mailboxes and power lines. There has to be a decent place to get off the road to let cars by. So, drivers need to have some patience to make sure the farmers gets there.”

Aaron Kennedy, Frankfort Times editor, may be reached by email at akennedy@ftimes.com.

PULSE

From page A1

Trick-or-Treat Extravaganza planned

Wabash Marketplace is sponsoring the annual Trick-or-Treat Extravaganza from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. This free, family-friendly event takes place throughout downtown Wabash. Zwiebel said families are invited to trick-or-treat from business to business. Many businesses will be handing out candy at their doorways. Walk between Canal, Market, Miami and Wabash streets from 5 p.m. until the candy runs out. For more information, visit www.wabashmarketplace.org or <https://www.facebook.com/events/1484292148625642>.

Great Pumpkin Hunt planned

The Great Pumpkin Hunt event has been set for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 in Warvel Park, 702 N. Market St., North Manchester. Age groups will be Toddler, Pre-K/Kindergarten, First and Second grades, Third and Fourth grades and Fifth and Sixth grades. Participants will line up on the sidewalk along 7th and Market streets. Toddler is the only group that may be assisted by

chester Police Department (NMPD) Chief Jim Kirk said they were planning a trunk-or-treat event from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 at the North Manchester Public Safety Building, 709 W. Main St., North Manchester. Kirk said this will be the same hours as trick-or-treating in North Manchester. Kirk said they will be passing out candy and will also have police and fire trucks in the east parking lot. Kirk said participants may drive through and do not need to get out of their vehicles. Kirk said there will be no haunted house this year.

Peabody Retirement Community's Trail of Scarecrows available

Peabody Retirement Community is hosting Trail of Scarecrows – a contactless, family-friendly event – through Saturday, Oct. 31 at their 33-acre campus at 400 W. Seventh St. Activities also include a self-guided scavenger hunt. Visitors can drive (or walk) a trail of more than 20 scarecrows. The public is invited to choose the winner by touring the Trail of Scarecrows and voting for their favorite scarecrow on the Peabody Retirement Community Facebook page. Before dropping by Peabody, Irwin suggests downloading a printable

Trail of Scarecrows map and Scarecrow Tom Scavenger Hunt checklist. For more information, visit PeabodyRC.org or call 260-982-8616.

Indiana 105 bridge at Salamonie Lake closed

Salamonie Lost Bridge West and East state recreation areas are accessible only from the south. To access Indiana 105 on the north side of the bridge, from the south of the bridge heading north on Indiana 105, the official detour will be Indiana 124 to Indiana 9 to Highway 24. The entire bridge deck will be removed and replaced. The bridge, and road, is scheduled to re-open Sunday, Nov. 15.

Hawkins Farms kicks off Pizza Fridays benefiting HOPE CSA

Hawkins Family Farm is hosting “Tailgating on the Farm” from 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays at 10373 N. 300 East, North Manchester, diners will be able to order online or by phone their all-natural, locally-sourced artisan pizzas baked in an outdoor, wood-fired brick oven. Standard pizzas range from \$10 to \$20, payable by credit card or Apple Pay. All profits from Fridays on the Farm benefit

HOPE CSA (Hands-On Pastoral Education using Clergy Sustaining Agriculture). For more information, visit www.hawkinsfamilyfarm.com or www.hopecsa.org.

Laketon American Legion open

The Laketon American Legion is open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays serving breakfast and lunch. On Saturdays, only breakfast will be served from 6 to 11 a.m. On Sundays, they are closed.

DivorceCare begins weekly meetings again

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, “features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery.” The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 S. State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Leader Janet Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call Quillen at 260-571-5235, or call 260-

563-8453 or 877-350-1658; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Wabash Rotary Club announces ‘No Outing Golf Outing’

Wabash Rotary Club has continued its long tradition of supporting the Wabash County United Fund campaign. And although this year’s golf outing was canceled, Wabash Rotary will still be supporting Wabash County United Fund (WCUF). Community members can participate in one of two ways. They may donate any amount to the Wabash Rotary Club or they can sponsor one of three levels toward the “No Outing Golf Outing.” All donations or sponsorships may be payable to the Wabash Rotary Club by mail at P.O. Box 159, Wabash, IN 46992. For more information, call Dr. Chris Kuhn at 260-563-8050 (option 7) or email at kuhnc@msdwc.k12.in.us; or call Steve Johnson at 260-563-6726 or email at steve.johnson@wcunitedfund.org.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Older workers face higher unemployment amid virus pandemic

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Personal Finance Writer

For the first time in nearly 50 years, older workers face higher unemployment than their midcareer counterparts, according to a study released Tuesday by the New School university in New York City.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on employment for people of all ages. But researchers found that during its course, workers 55 and older lost jobs sooner, were rehired slower and continue to face higher job losses than their counterparts ages 35 to 54.

It is the first time since 1973 that such a severe unemployment gap has persisted for six months or longer.

AARP said the study bolstered concerns about the economic impact of the virus on older workers. When people over 50 lose their jobs, it typically takes them twice as long to find work as it does for younger workers, the organization representing the interests of

older Americans estimates.

The pandemic “may be something that is pushing people out of the workforce and they may never get back in,” said Susan Weinstock, AARP’s vice president of financial resilience programming.

In every recession since the 1970s, older workers had persistently lower unemployment rates than mid-career workers – partly because of seniority benefits.

But in the current recession, older workers experienced higher unemployment rates than midcareer workers in each month since the onset of the pandemic.

The older workers’ unemployment rates from April through September were 1.1 percentage points higher than mid-career workers – at 9.7 percent versus 8.6 percent. The rates were compiled using a six-month rolling average and were far worse for older workers who are black, female or lack college degrees.

Among the newly unemployed older workers is

Legasse Gamo, 65. He was laid off in March from his job as a baggage handler at Reagan National airport in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Virginia.

While Gamo is afraid of exposing himself to the coronavirus by working around others, he said he has looked for work – because he feels he has little choice but to take any job he can find.

The contractor he worked for, Eulen America, has required its laid off employees to reapply for their jobs. Gamo did so but said he has received no reply.

The immigrant from Ethiopia supports three grandchildren, ages 6, 12 and 14, who live with him. His daughter is still employed, but her pay is not enough to cover their expenses. Gamo gets \$210 a week in unemployment insurance payments and said he has spent almost all of his savings.

“I just want to get back to my job as soon as possible to support my family because I’m afraid we will end

up homeless,” Gamo said.

The New School study focused only on workers with established careers. As a result, it did not examine workers younger than 35.

It found that the pandemic has posed a unique risk for older workers, said Teresa Ghilarducci, director of the New School’s Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis.

“The higher rate of unemployment for older workers might be because this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for employers to shed older workers and not fear investigation by the labor department,” Ghilarducci said.

She added: “Age discrimination rules are not being tightly enforced. Employers, fearing economic instability, may want to get rid of relatively more expensive workers and take their chances with training new workers when the economy recovers.”

Older workers often face age discrimination, making it difficult for them to find jobs. Researchers believe

employers laid off and resisted rehiring older adults, in part because they tend to face more serious health risks when infected by the virus.

The unemployment spike for older workers could force more of them into early and involuntary retirement, worsen their financial well-being and exacerbate financial disparities already experienced by women, minorities and people without college degrees in terms of retirement security.

New School researchers estimated that 1.4 million workers over 55 remain lost their jobs since April and remain unemployed. The figure does not include workers who became unemployed in April and left the work force.

The situation could have deep ramifications for older workers close to retirement because their final years on the job are critical for those who have not saved enough for their retirement and expect to work longer to shore up their retirement funds.

“Retirement security is very fragile and a lot of them never recovered from the recession in the first place,” said Weinstock, of the AARP. “They were planning on working to make up for money they hadn’t saved and then they aren’t able to make those catch up payments they need.”

The Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis at the New School has estimated in research separate from Monday’s study that 43 million people now in their fifties and early sixties will be poor when they become elderly because of economic conditions or a lack of adequate savings in retirement plans.

The researchers who conducted the new study recommended that Congress increase and extend unemployment benefits for older workers, discourage withdrawals from retirement accounts, lower Medicare eligibility to 50 and create a federal Older Workers Bureau to promote the welfare of older workers.

Trump ups pressure on Barr to probe Bidens as election nears

By AAMER MADHANI and COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday called on Attorney General William Barr to immediately launch an investigation into unverified claims about Democrat Joe Biden and his son Hunter, effectively demanding that the Justice Department muddy his political opponent and abandon its historic resistance to getting involved in elections.

With just two weeks to go before Election Day, Trump for the first time explicitly called on Barr to investigate the Bidens and even pointed to the nearing Nov. 3 election as reason that Barr should not delay taking action. Trump has been leveling accusations of corruption against Biden without verified evidence for months, but is stepping up the pressure in the final days of the campaign.

“We’ve got to get the attorney general to act,” Trump said in an interview on “Fox & Friends.” “He’s got to act, and he’s got to act fast. He’s got to appoint somebody. This is major corruption, and this has to be known about before the election.”

Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University, suggested that Trump’s pressure campaign on Barr

has moved into uncharted territory for presidential politics.

“The question is, Does Barr erode the guidelines and reforms from the post-Watergate era and move forward with this?” Zelizer said. “We are seeing a total politicization of the justice system in the final stages of an election.”

Trump’s pressuring of Barr comes as national and battleground polls show him facing an increasingly narrow path to reelection. The president has repeatedly cited Hunter Biden’s past —often with unsubstantiated claims – as a reason that voters can’t trust Biden in the White House.

The president has been promoting an unconfirmed New York Post report published last week that cites an email in which an official from Ukrainian gas company Burisma thanked Hunter Biden, who served on the company’s board, for arranging for him to meet Joe Biden during a 2015 visit to Washington. The Biden campaign has rejected Trump’s assertion of wrongdoing and noted that Biden’s schedule did not show a meeting with the Burisma official.

Trump has yet to specify what crime he believes the Bidens have committed, but that has not stopped him from going as far as suggesting to voters that Biden belongs in

jail.

The Justice Department did not respond to requests for comment on the president’s call for an investigation.

The president’s attempts to darken Biden’s reputation in the final lap of the election echo his “lock her up” attacks in 2016 on Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, who faced FBI scrutiny in the final months of the campaign over her use of a private email server while conducting State Department business.

Trump is trying to use all levers of power at his disposal as he struggles to gain ground on Biden. He has also expressed increasing anger over the resistance of the Justice Department to some of his appeals.

In addition to his call for a Biden probe, the president has become frustrated with Barr over the pace of the Justice Department’s investigation into the origin of the Russia probe, which will not be completed by Election Day.

Trump and his allies had high hopes for the probe, led by Connecticut U.S. Attorney John Durham, betting it would expose what they believe is wrongdoing when the FBI opened a case into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with Russia to sway the 2016 election.

But a year and a half in, there’s been only one criminal case: a former FBI lawyer who pleaded guilty to altering a government email about a former Trump campaign adviser who was a target of secret FBI surveillance.

Trump’s hasn’t hidden his frustration. He recently retweeted a photo of Barr with the caption “for the love of GOD ARREST SOMEBODY.” During a rally in Arizona on Monday, he suggested Biden would be in prison if Barr wasn’t such “a very nice man.”

“I know people that would have had him locked up five weeks ago,” Trump said. “Bill Barr is a very nice man and a very fair man. And in many ways, it doesn’t make some of us happy.”

Barr has privately expressed frustration over the president’s public pronouncements. Although Barr is broadly in agreement with Trump on the need to investigate the origins of the Russia probe, he’s often bemoaned Trump’s lack of understanding about the intricacies of the legal system and the steps that need to be taken to complete an investigation.

As the election nears, Barr has kept a lower profile, limiting his time in front of the cameras to avoid facing direct questions from the media about Trump’s demands for greater Justice Department involvement in the election.

U.S. spacecraft touches asteroid for rare rubble grab

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft descended to an asteroid Tuesday and, dodging boulders the size of buildings, momentarily touched the surface to collect a handful of cosmic rubble for return to Earth.

It was a first for the United States – only Japan has scored asteroid samples.

“I can’t believe we actually pulled this off,” said lead scientist Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona. “The spacecraft did everything it was supposed to do.”

The Osiris-Rex spacecraft sent back confirmation of its contact with asteroid Bennu more than 200 million miles away, drawing cheers from the mission team. But it could be a week before scientists know how much, if anything, was grabbed and whether another try will be needed. If successful, Osiris-Rex will return the samples in 2023.

Following commands sent well in advance by ground controllers near Denver, the spacecraft took 4 1/2 hours to make its way down from its tight orbit around Bennu.

Bennu’s gravity was too low for Osiris-Rex to land – the asteroid is just 1,670 feet across. As a result, the spacecraft had to reach out with its 11-foot robot arm and attempt to grab at least 2 ounces of Bennu.

The University of Arizona’s Heather Enos, deputy scientist for the mission, described it as “kissing the surface with a short touch-and-go measured in just seconds.” At Mission Control for spacecraft builder Lockheed Martin, controllers on the TAG Team – for touch-and-go – wore royal blue polo shirts and black masks with the mission patch. The coronavirus pandemic had resulted in a two-month delay.

Tuesday’s operation was

considered the most harrowing part of the mission, which began with a launch from Cape Canaveral back in 2016.

A van-sized spacecraft with an Egyptian-inspired name, Osiris-Rex aimed for a spot equivalent to a few parking spaces on Earth in the middle of the asteroid’s Nightingale Crater. After nearly two years orbiting Bennu, the spacecraft found this location to have the biggest patch of particles small enough to be swallowed up.

After determining that the coast was clear, Osiris-Rex closed in the final few yards (meters) for the sampling. The spacecraft was programmed to shoot out pressurized nitrogen gas to stir up the surface, then suck up any loose pebbles or dust. Contact was expected to last a mere 5 seconds to 10 seconds, with the spacecraft quickly backing away.

By the time flight controllers heard back from Osiris-Rex, the action already happened 18 1/2 minutes earlier, the time it takes radio signals to travel each way between Bennu and Earth.

Scientists want between 2 ounces and 4 pounds of Bennu’s black, crumbly, carbon-rich material – thought to contain the building blocks of our solar system.

NASA’s science mission chief, Thomas Zurbuchen, likened Bennu to the Rosetta Stone: “something that’s out there and tells the history of our entire Earth, of the solar system, during the last billions of years.”

Another benefit: Bennu has a slight chance of smacking Earth late in the next century, although not as a show-stopping life-ender. The more scientists know about the paths and properties of potentially hazardous space rocks like this one, the safer we’ll all be.

Osiris-Rex can make up to three touch-and-go maneuvers in case it comes up short.

U.S. overdose deaths appear to rise amid coronavirus pandemic

By MIKE STOBBE and ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

Matthew Davidson was beating his heroin addiction. The 31-year-old was attending group recovery meetings. He had a restaurant job he liked. He was a doting uncle to a baby nephew.

Then the coronavirus pandemic hit. Davidson lost his job. He started staying home alone in his apartment near Georgetown, Kentucky – depressed and yearning for his recovery support group that had stopped gathering in person, said his cousin Melanie Wyatt.

On May 25, his girlfriend came home to find him dead of a drug overdose.

Davidson was part of a surge in overdose deaths that hit Kentucky this spring. May was its deadliest month for overdoses in at least five years. At the end of August, the state had seen almost as many overdose deaths as it had in all of 2019.

It is not alone. National data is incomplete, but available information suggests U.S. drug overdose deaths are on track to reach an all-time high. Addiction experts blame the pandemic, which has left people stressed and

isolated, disrupted treatment and recovery programs, and contributed to an increasingly dangerous illicit drug supply.

Before the coronavirus even arrived, the U.S. was in the midst of the deadliest drug overdose epidemic in its history, with a record 71,000 overdose deaths last year.

This year’s tally likely will surpass that, according to preliminary death data from nine states reviewed by The Associated Press and national data on emergency responses to reported drug overdoses.

National numbers take months to tabulate, because tests and death investigations can take time even when medical examiners offices are not stretched thin by a pandemic. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted a count through March, the month when COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths jumped in the Northeast and when stay-at-home orders and other virus measures began.

The full effect of those closures won’t be seen until April and May, experts say. Still the latest numbers shows deaths trending up: Nearly 74,000 overdose deaths were counted from April 2019 to March 2020, up from the

68,000 reported for the comparable period one year earlier.

“The new CDC data confirms our fears that COVID-19 is exacerbating the already devastating overdose crisis,” said Jules Netherland, who oversees research at the Drug Policy Alliance, a nonprofit that focuses on illicit drug use issues.

The AP reviewed preliminary overdose death statistics from nine states with more recent counts – Colorado, Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington. Most included data allowing comparisons to earlier years, and those numbers show overdose deaths outpacing what was reported during the same months of 2019, in some cases by substantial margins.

In Connecticut, for example, preliminary overdose death counts were up more than 19 percent through the end of July, compared with the same time frame last year. They were up 9 percent in Washington through the end of August, 28 percent in Colorado, and 30 percent in Kentucky during that same period.

Overdose deaths were trending up even before the

virus emerged. So 2020 may well have been to be a bad year even without the pandemic, said Dana Quesinberry, who oversees a University of Kentucky project focused on state overdose deaths.

That said, the coronavirus played a role in worsening the overdose epidemic, though it will take years of study to sort out exactly how, she added.

Available data does suggest an acceleration since COVID-19 hit. In nearly every state reviewed by the AP, overdose death counts reached their highest numbers in April or May, and then dipped down somewhat afterward. Experts cautioned that doesn’t necessarily mean the peak has passed. Numbers for more recent months will likely rise as more autopsies are finished.

There are other signs that overdoses are rising.

ODMAP, a project that tracks police and emergency calls responding to suspected overdoses from thousands of agencies in 49 states, found that 62 percent of counties that send data to the project saw increases after lockdowns started. By another measure, initial overdose reports rose more than 17 percent.

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